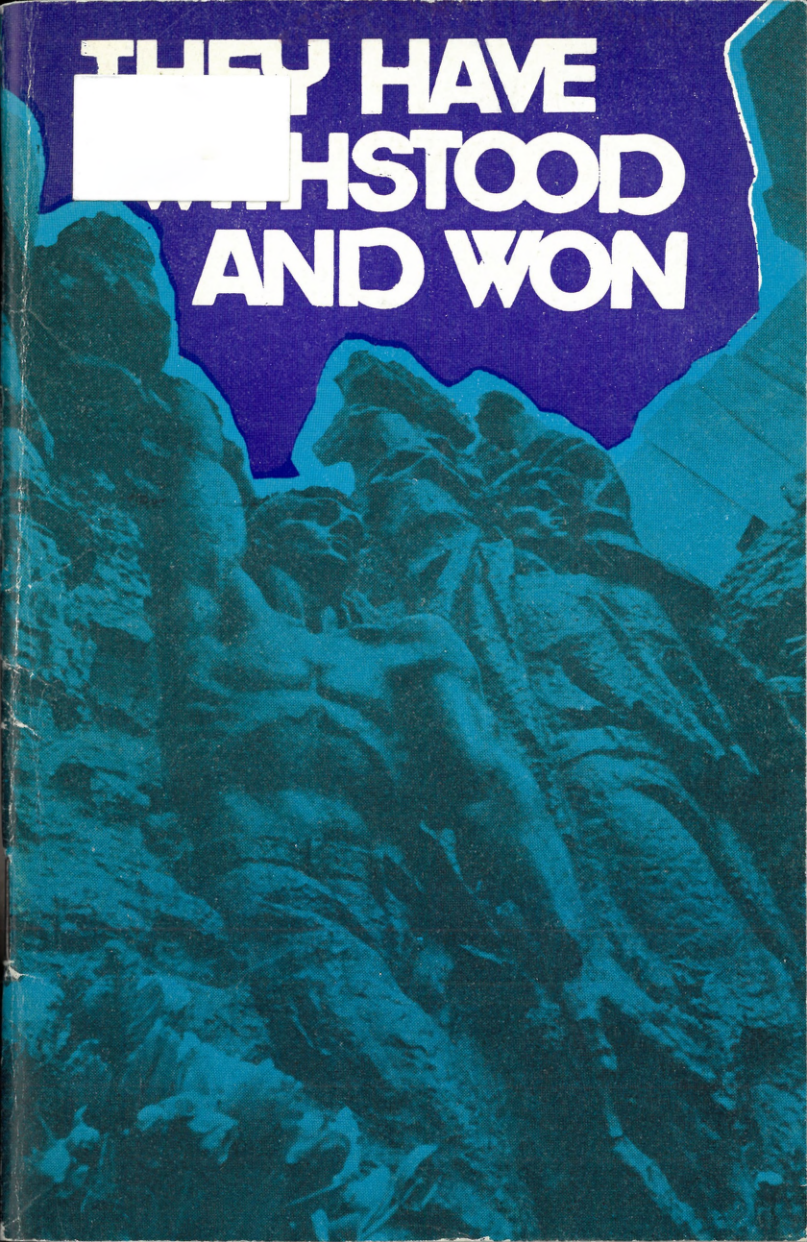
THEY HAVE WITHSTOOD AND WON



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THEY HAVE WITHSTOOD AND WON

THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR (1941-1945)

UKRAINA SOCIETY
Kiev, 1984

The Great Patriotic War... Decades have passed ever since, but the memories of it live on in the hearts of the veterans. In the history of the last war the effort of the Ukrainian people ranks with the feats accomplished by the country to save the world from Nazism. This new publication by the Ukraina Society, dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Ukrainian SSR's territory from the Nazi invaders, deals with the Soviet people's victory over Nazi Germany and tells about the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation among the fraternal Soviet peoples. The brochure is meant for readers at large who have interest in the history of the Ukraine of the Great Patriotic War period.

Foreword

The fiery events of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union (1941-1945) are now days gone by. However, the great feat of the world's first socialist country will never fade from the people's memory. That war was not an ordinary war. It was a deadly struggle between the most advanced, progressive socialist system and the most reactionary and aggressive power in the world — fascism.

In carrying out their wild plans for world supremacy the Nazis first of all aspired to defeat the USSR — the powerful socialist state, to use its great wealth for carrying on their bloody adventures, to enslave the Soviet peoples. The German imperialists, from the first days of the coming to power of the Nazi party, headed by Hitler, began preparations for an Eastern campaign. Securing a springboard for a "holy" war against socialism, the aggressor had conquered Western Europe. The armies of Czechoslovakia and Poland, Belgium and France, Holland and Greece, Denmark and Norway were routed one after another. These and other countries found themselves under the Nazi jackboot, their economies were engulfed by the German military machine. Under those favorable conditions the Nazis were getting ready to attack the USSR.

Starting a war against the Soviet Union, the aggressors were sure of their quick victory. They miscalculated, though. On the eve of the war the Soviet Union had become an industrialized country capable of withstanding and overcoming great difficulties. Its peoples who had known happiness of a free life in conditions of socialism were eager to retain their gains and, if necessary, to protect them by rebuffing any aggressor.

To win the victory over the Nazis, the Soviet people were to traverse a hard long road of 1,418 days and nights filled with the bitterness of defeat and examples of heroism, immeasurable hardships and remarkable victories. All progressive mankind followed the results of that titanic struggle of the Soviet people, sincerely wishing them to win. "The Soviet people will be victorious in this war, because even before it they possessed the great truth, not impotent but the life-giving one,— they were determined to change life for the better — in the name of people," wrote Heinrich Mann.

Many years will pass, but the glory of the feats of arms and labor of the Soviet people who defended the honor, freedom and independence of their Motherland will never fade. The war veterans will expire, but their successors will cherish and pass on to their children and grandchildren the memory of the heroic generation of fathers and grandfathers who shielded their homeland during the war. Together with their comrades-in-arms — representatives of all Soviet republics — a worthy contribution to the victory over Nazism was made by the Ukrainians. Below we tell about this.

Decisive Trials. 1941–1942

Treacherous attack of Nazi Germany. Border engagements on the Ukraine's territory.

On June 22, 1941, an avalanche of shells and bombs broke the morning silence at Soviet frontier posts. Factories and plants, towns and villages were on fire. Treacherously violating the non-aggression pact and without declaring hostilities, Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union. Thus the most reactionary and the most aggressive forces of international imperialism made a desperate attempt to carry out their maniacal plans for exterminating the world's first country of workers and peasants — the USSR, for enslaving and annihilating the Soviet peoples.

According to the "Barbarossa Plan" — a Blitzkrieg attack against the USSR — worked out well in advance by the Hitler Government, Nazi Germany and its European allies had concentrated along the western Soviet borders 190 divisions with a total strength of 5,500,000 troops and a large quantity of fighting equipment. These troops made up three groups of armies—"North," "Center" and "South"—which were to deliver a heavy blow and defeat the major forces of the Red Army.

The Soviet troops that were concentrated in the western border regions numbered 170 divisions and 2 brigades (2,680,000 men and officers). After their defeat, the German command cherished a hope to swiftly advance toward the major political and economic centers — Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev. The considerable forces of the enemy (30 infantry, 9 armor and motorized divisions) acted on the Ukraine's territory. Their objective was to capture her advanced industry and considerable raw-material resources so as to strengthen the military economy of Germany and create favorable conditions to triumph over the USSR.

Already in the first battles, examples of gallantry and valor were displayed by Soviet frontier guards, in particular in the Ukrainian border region, who, fighting the quantitatively superior enemy, stood to the last man. In the Kovel direction, fighting courageously were the 8th and the 9th Frontier posts of the 98th Frontier Regiment commanded by Lt Col H. Surzhenko. In continuous battles they annihilated nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers. When P. Starovoitov, commander of the 8th Frontier Post, died the death of a hero, command was assumed by political instructor F. Babenko. For eleven days the 13th Frontier Post near Volodymyr-Volynsky fought in encirclement. It was commanded by Lt O. Lopatin. The red banner had been flying over the post till July 2, i.e. even after Lviv, Ternopil and Lutsk had been captured by the Nazis. Of 73 Soviet soldiers, three survived. The Nazis lost 550 men. O. Lopatin was posthumously given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Nazis punishing Soviet peasants (1942).

Soviet pilots accomplished many feats in air fighting over the Ukraine's territory. In the first hours of the war pilot D. Kokorev engaged a German pursuit plane. Suddenly the machine guns on the Soviet plane failed. Then D. Kokorev chopped off, with the propeller, the tail of the German plane and won the fight. Like D. Kokorev, pilots of the South-Western Front L. Butelin, O. Danilov, I. Ivanov, O. Moklyak, Ye. Panfilov and P. Ryabtsev, for the first time in the history of the Great Patriotic War, rammed enemy planes.

The Nazis also met with stubborn resistance along the line of fortified areas under construc-

tion. In places where Soviet troops had managed to occupy the completed strongholds the enemy was delayed for a long time and suffered considerable losses. For example, in the area of Lesko-Glynne-Postolov-Talne Soviet troops fought in encirclement till the beginning of July, containing the advance of the 454 SS Division. Later, one of the staff officers of the division admitted, referring to that fact: in 1940, in order to neutralize French pillboxes, German artillerymen used 4 to 5 rounds, whereas at Lesko they had to fire 150 rounds.

In the first days of the war a fierce fighting raged in the areas adjacent to the western border. In the zone of the South-Western Front, in the area of Lutsk-Brody-Rovno-Dubno, counterattacking the enemy's 1st Armor Group were the mechanized corps of Generals D. Ryabyshev, K. Rokossovsky, I. Karpezo, M. Feklenko. Thanks to these counterblows the Nazis' advance toward Kiev was somewhat delayed.

On Ukrainian soil, the enemy immediately felt the unconquerable force of the unity of the USSR peoples which came to help the Ukraine. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with Ukrainians were Georgians and Russians, Bashkirs and Kazakhs, Armenians and Moldavians... Turkmen Kurban Durdy, a sergeant from the 389th Regiment, which acted at the Southern Front, on June 26, 1941, together with two soldiers, crossed the Prut River and, within 24 hours, reconnoitered the enemy's area, plotting on the map the Nazis' weapon emplacements and fortification systems. At night, on their way back, the scouts attacked a German platoon,

killing 11 soldiers. The next day, Kurban Durdy participated in three attacks, destroyed with grenades two weapon emplacements and was badly wounded. For the heroism displayed by him, K. Durdy was given the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Trying to slur the feat of arms accomplished by Soviet warriors, some Western authors allege that at the beginning of the war they lacked morale and the will to fight. The above examples, though, refute these allegations. On June 28, 1941, the command of the 454th Guards Division informed the HQ of the 17th Army: "A Russian turned out to be a hardy soldier. Even when left alone, he dies in the last ditch; he fights a battle as skillfully as organizes a position."

With no less valor did Soviet soldiers fight at other sections of the Soviet-German front which stretched over a vast area from Murmansk to Izmail. The defense of Brest fortress became a symbol of the Soviet people's heroic struggle. It was absolutely indispensable for the Nazis to seize the fortress in the first hours of the war. However, its small garrison held out till the end of July.

So, the beginning of the Nazi aggression was extremely bad for the Soviet Union as a result of a surprise, strong blow and the enemy's considerable superiority in main directions. Despite their courage and the readiness to give their lives for the Motherland, Soviet soldiers could not check the onslaught of the enemy. By exploiting the strategic initiative, the Nazis penetrated, at a number of front sectors, into the depth of Soviet territory. By July 10, the

Nazi troops had advanced for 360 to 600 km along the axis of main attack. Latvia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, part of the Ukraine and Moldavia were overrun by the enemy.

The people mobilize efforts for the struggle. Strategic defense.

The failures that the USSR encountered in the early stage of the war could have had disastrous effects on any other country. However, the Soviet people, who had established a socialist system in their country, did not fall into despair. They were determined to defend their Motherland, their freedom and independence. The Soviet State, guided by the Communist Party, put forth, as a task of high priority, the necessity for the urgent mobilization of all efforts of the people to repulse the aggression. The Soviet Government's directive of June 29, 1941, became a program for regearing all the activities of society along military lines.

By declaring the war of the Soviet people against the Nazi aggressor a Great Patriotic War, the USSR Government called on the nation to battle for every inch of the native land, to fight to the last for its cities and villages. "Everything for the front, everything for victory!" — this slogan determined at the time the essence of all the efforts of Soviet citizens. On June 30, 1941, the State Defense Committee — an extraordinary body which concentrated absolute authority in the country — was set up.

The Soviet people. including the Ukraine's population, unanimously supported the program of the country's defense and the enemy's defeat. A nationwide patriotic drive was launched

which was aimed at enhancing the combat efficiency of the Red Army, at continuously remanning it and supplying it with materiel. Soon after over two million residents of the Ukrainian SSR enlisted in the Red Army. At the same time, following the example of Moscow and Leningrad, the people's volunteer corps began to form in the Ukraine (in the Republic's 12 eastern and southern regions alone, they were joined by nearly 1.3 million people). Over 360,000 citizens of the Ukraine were part of 657 special-purpose battalions and 18,000 allied groups organized to protect the rear areas from enemy saboteurs. Millions of urban and rural residents actively participated in the construction of fortifications and the establishment of the country's defense fund; they also attended the wounded soldiers in hospitals, took care of the families of servicemen and the children whose parents were killed, took part in the procurement of foodstuffs for the Army, and in many other patriotic drives.

The middle of July 1941 saw a new, most difficult phase of the armed struggle. Notwithstanding the counterblows of Soviet troops, which had gone into the strategic defense, the enemy continued, although at a slower pace, the penetration into the Soviet territory. In the Ukraine, decisive battles were fought in the Zhitomir-Kiev direction. The Nazi command's plan to quickly defeat the large Soviet groupings that were deployed here, and freely capture the Ukraine, to penetrate to the Caucasus and Transcaucasia, was frustrated by the troops of the South-Western and the Southern fronts.

The defense of Kiev (from July 11 to Sep-

tember 19) and Odessa (from August 5 to October 16) played an important part in the summer-autumn campaign of 1941. Defending these cities, soldiers and seamen as well as the people's volunteer corps displayed mass heroism in the battles against the aggressor. During the defense of Kiev and Odessa the enemy's casualties ran into 260,000 men and officers. As a result of these actions which involved large numbers of troops and fighting equipment of the enemy, the Soviet command reached the main goal: to foil the Nazis' plans to start, before the fall, advance toward Moscow and the Donbas and seize them.

Thus, already in the first months of the war the Nazis' plan of a Blitzkrieg attack against the USSR began to fall apart at the seams. It was not accidental that, later, Kiev and Odessa would be given the honorary title of Hero City considering the great role they had played in the strategic defense of Soviet troops in 1941. The feats of arms of the defenders of Kiev and Odessa, as well as Kerch and Sevastopol which also became Hero Cities, added a glorious page to the history of the last war.

Reorienting all industries to war production and support. Transfer of production forces to the East.

The strategic defense of the Red Army enabled the Soviet State to take the necessary steps for putting the economy and entire life of the working people on a war footing. The Nazis hoped that war failures would demoralize the Soviet working class and peasants and bring the national economy to ruin. However, these hopes were not fulfilled. It was these hard trials that fully revealed the main

advantages of the socialist system and the resolution of the whole of the people to carry out in the best possible way the titanic work for the development and build-up of the military-economic base.

Thanks to the decisive steps of the Soviet State, all able-bodied population was engaged in the reorienting of all industries to war production and support; public order and labor discipline were enhanced; planning, the methods and forms of economic management were streamlined. Scarcely had a week passed since the outbreak of the war when every factory and plant were reorganized, in one way or another, to fill military orders. For example, the machine-building works in Kharkiv and Kiev, Odessa and Sumy, Zaporizhya and Dnipropetrovsk started, before long, the production of tanks, armor trains, guns, mortars and ammunition.

Like all Soviet people, the industrial and office workers and peasants of the Ukraine were involved in the war effort of the country. The working place at a lathe, on a harvester or in a lab was equated with a battle station. On the initiative of the youth of Kiev many thousands of college and secondary school students came to work at munitions factories. Following the example of Kharkiv pensioners — former workers, quite a few senior citizens returned to their factories. Women began to play an ever increasing role at plants and factories. Many of them replaced their husbands who were at the front. Besides, they often took up difficult jobs so as to help defend the native land. More than 100 girls from Voroshilovgrad Region went

to work at coal mines. Young woman worker O. Babych organized at No. 17 Coal Mine of the "Donbasantratsit" Association, for the first time in the history of the coal-minining industry, a woman team of getters. Whole families became workers. For example, the Kolesnikov family — father and two daughters — worked at No. 1-2 "Chervony Zhovten" Coal Mine of the "Ordzhonikidzevuhillya" Association. Tens of thousands of workers and employees made efforts to produce more goods above the plan, operate several machine tools simultaneously, raise the quality of products and to save materials and power, etc. At the same time, more often than not, people had to work under conditions of air raids and bombardments of the enemy's long-range artillery.

In no less difficult conditions of the front-line rear area which the Ukraine was at the time, the farmers gathered the harvest and produced various agricultural products. Here, too, women were in the forefront. P. Kovardak, Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, woman machine operator, appealed through the press to the rural young people: "To tractors and harvesters! Let's show, with our dedicated work, to the whole world what Soviet women are worthy of." Thanks to the great enthusiasm of agricultural workers, over a short period of time they accomplished what was regarded as impossible in peacetime. For example, the rates of harvesting in the south of the Ukrainian SSR were 2-3 times the prewar figure.

Scientific workers also made their contribution to the large-scale reorganization of economy. Day and night scientists of the Ukrain-

Ukrainians are sent to Nazi Germany for hard labor (Kiev, 1942).

ian SSR Academy of Sciences and technological colleges could be found at munitions factories where they rendered assistance in solving the problems of putting production on a war footing.

The wartime economic reorganization also included the transportation, to the interior of the USSR, of the most valuable equipment of industrial enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, machine and tractor stations, and cultural values, as well as the evacuation of qualified experts. A great feat of labor was accomplished by working people during the dismantling and shipping of equipment from such economic centers of the Ukraine as the Dnieper Valley industrial region, the Donetsk and the Kryviy Rih

basins, and from the plants of Kiev, Kharkiv, Odessa, and other places.

Large-scale combat actions, massed air-strikes, bombardments, subversive operations by the enemy — all this created especially difficult conditions for evacuation. However, hundreds of thousands of people, without discontinuing their work on ongoing production programs, dismantled, loaded and transported over long distances what seemed to have been built for ever. The firstling of socialist industrialization — the "Zaporizhstal" Steel Works — can be used as a typical example: its equipment was dismantled and sent to the East within 45 days. Some parts of the works were exposed to artillery and machine-gun fire of the enemy who had occupied the right bank of the Dnieper, but the equipment of the giant plant (320,000 tons) was taken away (on 16,000 freight cars).

The shift of the equipment of giant enterprises at such a scale caused a sensation abroad. When, already after the war, O. Kuzmin, director of "Zaporizhstal," was on a visit to the USA, he was asked whether it was true that the equipment of such a plant could be taken away completely. He answered: "Yes, it's true. That was accomplished by the working class which defended itself." At the time, all in all, over 550 large enterprises of 30 branches of industry were taken from the Ukraine to hinterland. This constituted a third of all industries evacuated from the war-stricken regions of the USSR.

It was not an easy thing, too, to send to the country's interior 30,000 tractors and other equipment from machine and tractor stations,

as well as 125,000,000 poods of grain and other foodstuffs. However, what proved to be even more difficult was to drive, along the war roads and to the East, over 6,000,000 head of cattle. The Soviet Government saw to it that the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, 70 higher educational institutions, nearly 50 theaters and other cultural facilities of the Ukraine were evacuated to the country's interior. Everything possible was done for the timely evacuation of a maximum number of civilians from the regions which were threatened by the enemy. A total of 3,500,000 people were taken to the towns and villages of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and the republics of Central Asia.

The noted British journalist Ralf Parker referred to this distribution of production forces, effected in the USSR, as a strategic regrouping of forces, which preceded a counteroffensive.

Indeed, thanks to the unprecedented effort of the Soviet people a large-scale evacuation was effected and its main goal was achieved: the peoples of the USSR got a possibility to create an economic foundation for fighting a war with such a formidable enemy as Nazi Germany. The collectives of evacuated enterprises promoted, to a considerable extent, the creation of a powerful military economic base in the course of war.

The bulk of the equipment from the Ukraine was brought to industrial centers of the Urals and Siberia. Quite a few plants and factories were stationed in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Local authorities and working people of the fraternal republics did their utmost to facilitate the distribution and putting into operation of

the arrived equipment and the accommodation of the evacuees. The newcomers had to start work in the hinterland under difficult conditions: there was shortage of industrial premises, transportation facilities, qualified manpower, electric energy, food, warm clothing. Besides, winter came early and severe in the East. However, the will and persistence of patriots prevailed. This is what K. Kislyakov, a turner at the Kharkiv Turbine-building Plant, recalls: "We worked regardless of time, forgetting about repose and not feeling tiredness. It was tough... besides there was 35 to 40 degrees of frost and the water froze in hosepipes. Sometimes, even metal failed and cracked, but people withstood all that and fulfilled the task."

Getting ahead of the story, it should be mentioned that the strenuous, truly heroic work of both evacuees and local collectives was crowned with success. The rates of reconstruction and commissioning of newly-equipped factories were very high and most of them started to turn out products in the spring of 1942.

By the middle of 1942, the putting of the national economy on a new footing had been completed and by the end of the same year the country had a coordinated war industry, in which 47 per cent of all capacities was the equipment brought from the Ukrainian SSR. It worked to capacity and turned out more products than before the war. Besides, the military-industrial potential in the East was growing rapidly. Especially successful was the development of tank-building, aircraft-building, artillery industry and manufacture of ammuni-

tion. The USSR Armed Forces began uninterruptedly to receive the necessary equipment and armaments.

Great victory near Moscow. Combat actions on the Ukraine's territory in 1942.

In the fall of 1941, the situation at the Soviet-German front was extremely tense. In the 5.5 months of the war, the Nazis had fought their way forward at strategically vital sectors of the Soviet-German front, in particular in the southwest direction, covering 900 to 1,200 km.

In September, Hitler signed a directive about the preparation of a "decisive operation" which was coded "Typhoon." Its objective was to capture Moscow. The Nazi leadership considered that with the capture of the Soviet capital the political object of the war would be achieved. The major offensive was to be carried out by a grouping numbering over a million men and officers, armed with the latest fighting equipment. In the Moscow direction the Soviet troops were smaller in number. However, thanks to their mass heroism and the assistance of the population, the enemy's two assaults were repulsed one after another. By the beginning of December 1941, the correlation of forces at the Soviet-German front had changed in the favor of Soviet troops which launched a counterattack, which resulted in the defeat of Nazi troops. It became a turning point in the armed struggle against the aggressor, which had an appreciable effect on the course of WWII. The Battle of Moscow put an end to the notorious plan of "Blitzkrieg."

Western historians of a conservative stamp

try to deny the intransient historic significance of the Battle of Moscow. In their works (L. Cooper. *Many Roads to Moscow.* London, 1968; A. Seaton. *The Battle for Moscow. 1941-1942.* London, 1971; A. Turney. *Disaster at Moscow.* Albuquerque, 1970, and others) they give discrepant views which, among other things, smack of subjectivism and anti-Sovietism. For example, they allege that the climate of the Soviet Union played the main part in the war and that General Winter and General Mud sided with the Soviets (*War in the East. The Russo-German Conflict. 1941-1945.* New York, 1977). These inventions (and these allegations cannot be termed otherwise, because if to take them seriously one will have to admit that the cold, snow storms and impassability of roads had to effect both sides) are aimed at concealing the fact that the main cause of the failure of the operation "Typhoon" was the increased might and proficiency of the Red Army.

In the great Battle for Moscow, along with hundreds of thousands of soldiers of many nationalities, gallantry and courage were displayed by Ukrainian soldiers as well. Among the 29 Ukrainians and natives of the Ukraine who were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for that battle were tankmen O. Burda and D. Lavrynenko, pilots Ye. Horbatyuk, O. Katrych, V. Naidenko. Tank destroyers Ya. Bondarenko, M. Mytchenko, I. Moskalenko and H. Petrenko died the death of heroes together with other heroes at Volokolamsk road near the station of Dubosekovo.

The Red Army's victory at Moscow enabled

the beginning of combat operation for liberating the eastern regions of the Ukrainian SSR. In January 1942, the forces of the South-Western and the Southern fronts carried out the Barvinkove-Lozova offensive operation. Soviet troops seized, on the right bank of the Northern Donets, a wide bridgehead which allowed to deal blows at the Kharkiv and Donbas groupings of the enemy. On May 12, the troops of the South-Western Front broke through the enemy defenses and advanced for 25 to 50 km. However, five days later the numerically superior German grouping inflicted strong blows on Soviet troops in the vicinity of Slovyansk and Barvinkove, encircled them and made them assume a defensive posture.

At the same time the Nazis started a decisive storm of Sevastopol which had been besieged since the fall of 1941. Surrounded and pressed by the numerically superior enemy, the defenders of this stronghold on the Black Sea, following the order of the General HQ, left the city on July 4. Soviet troops also met with failure on the Kerch Peninsula which they had to leave. In such a situation — extremely adverse for the USSR — on June 28, 1942, large armor formations of the Nazis launched an attack in the Voronezh direction. As a result, the Soviet troops' front was penetrated for 200 to 400 km in depth and for 600 to 650 km laterally. After Soviet troops had left, on July 22, 1942, the town of Sverdlovsk, Voroshilovgrad Region, the whole of the Ukrainian territory was occupied by the Nazis.

In the meantime, the struggle became ever more acute. With the Nazis reaching the area

between the Don and the Volga rivers, great battles on the Volga (July 17, 1942—February 2, 1943) and for the Caucasus (July 25, 1942 — October 9, 1943) started. During 4-month-long defensive battles on the Don, then in the area between the Don and the Volga, and, at last, in Stalingrad (now Volgograd), Soviet troops exhausted and demoralized the enemy, and checked his advance. It was at Stalingrad that the South-Western and the Don fronts, and then the Stalingrad Front, launched an overwhelming counterattack. It ended in an encirclement of a 330,000-strong grouping of the enemy.

Introduction of Nazi occupation regime in the Ukraine.

Going to war against the USSR, the Nazis had elaborated a program for the annihilation and enslaving of the peoples of the Soviet Union, conquering their land and introducing a slave-owing and colonial "new order." Testifying to the terrible fate prepared for the Soviet population are the documents that were kept by the Nazis in secrecy. They contain the draft of actions of German imperialists meant for 30 years (Plan "Ost"). According to this plan based on the misanthropic theory of the racial exceptionalism of the German nation, the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and other peoples inhabiting the USSR were to be exterminated and ousted, and their territories were to be colonized by 8 to 9 million Germans.

The Nazis assigned a special part to the Ukraine whose people, on many occasions in the past, they had tried to subdue and whose rich fields and resources they had tried to use. "The Ukraine will be the place of implementing

the creative spirit of Germans," said Erich Koch, who was appointed by Hitler as *Reichskommissar* of the Ukraine.

In the wake of the combat units of the Nazi Army, pouring into the Ukraine were specialized detachments and establishments and hosts of civil servants whose mission was to introduce the "new order" underlying which was lack of rights for the Soviet population, its mass execution, forced labor, and plunder of material values. It was this attitude to the captured Soviet lands that was cynically set out in the Nazi leadership's directives. One of the documents, signed by A. Rosenberg, *Reichsministr* for the Occupied Eastern Regions, read: "The supreme guiding principle for every kind of governing activities in the newly-occupied eastern regions is the welfare of the Third Reich and its people."

Contempt and brutality with regard to Soviet people were the distinctive features of Nazi government. "Don't be soft and sentimental" — this demand was contained in all instructions of the occupation apparatus. A large number of German colonizers — *Generalkommissars, Gebietskommissars, Stadtkommissars, Ortskomendants, Sonderfuhrers* and their henchmen — sponged the population of everything. Acting in the temporarily occupied areas were the *Gestapo, Sonderkommando* extermination squads, "economic teams" dealing with the organized plundering of the Ukrainian land's resources.

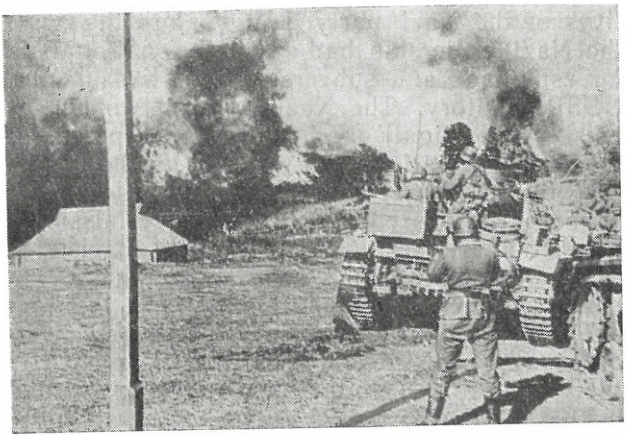
Throughout the occupation in towns and villages a curfew was imposed. Those guilty of its violation were shot on the spot. Numerous

orders limited the movements of residents. Servicemen, even inferior ranks, had the right to execute without trial. The Nazis did use this right, often and widely, inventing pathological methods for cruel executions of Soviet people.

The Nazis did not recognize any statehood for the Ukraine regarding her as "German space," which they could use as they liked. They included part of the Ukrainian territory in the *Reichskommissariat* "Ukraine." The Lviv, Ternopil, former Drohobych (now part of Lviv Region), Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankivsk) regions, under the name of "district Galizien" were incorporated in the *Generalgouvernement* created by the Nazis on the territory of occupied Poland. They joined the Izmail (now part of Odessa Region), Chernivtsi and Odessa regions, under the name of "Transnistria," to Romania. A number of districts in Vinnitsya and Mikolayiv regions, and Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Voroshilovgrad regions became a "frontline zone" which was controlled by military authorities. Thus dismembering the Ukraine, the enemy changed her historical national borders.

Posing as representatives of the "Nordic race" (the race of masters), the Nazis despised the peoples of the Soviet Union. They referred to the seized territories of the USSR as a German India, and their residents as white slaves.

Vilifying the Ukrainian nation, which, as was universally acknowledged, had contributed to the development of world civilization, the Nazis called it a nation of misfits. For example, abovementioned Erich Koch took every opportunity



Nazi butchers setting a Ukrainian village on fire.

to show his contempt and hatred for the Ukrainians. He would say in public: "These people are inferior to us... as humans we have nothing in common with them."

Everywhere the occupiers put up such notices as "For Germans Only," "Ukrainians Are Not Allowed," etc. Only Nazis and their accomplices were served in stores, restaurants, barber's shops. Urban residents were not permitted to use the railroad and city transport, electricity, telegraph and mail, drug stores. The Nazis wanted to make the Ukrainian people forget its history, renounce its national culture; they wanted to thrust their misanthropic ideology upon it.

The invaders assigned a special role to their henchmen — Ukrainian nationalists, who utterly accepted the ideological and practical direc-

tives of the Nazi party. Long before the war, the Nazi leadership had used the nationalists for espionage and subversive activities in the USSR territory. The Nazis raised two battalions — "Nachtigall" and "Roland" — consisting of Ukrainian nationalists which, with the beginning of the war, acted in the occupied territory. These battalions carried out punitive missions. In particular, they killed Soviet activists — workers and peasants — and staged mass executions of the civil population.

The Ukrainian nationalists of every stripe in every way praised the "new order" and Hitler the "Liberator." Here is an appeal published in the nationalist organ *Volyn*: "The slightest opposition to the Germans means assisting the Bolsheviks and coming out against God, one's own parents and against the civilized world." Similar open and cynical appeals by the Nazi lackeys were supported with their subservience to the bitter enemies of the Ukrainian people — the Nazis.

With German money, the nationalists published anti-Soviet literature and distributed it in the occupied regions. Zealously helping the invaders in their war against the Soviet people were the Ukrainian Central Committee in Lviv, headed by the sworn enemy of the Ukrainian people, V. Kubiyovych, the Ukrainian Confidence Council in the Volyn area, set up by Petlyura's accomplice S. Skripnik, the Ukrainian National Council in Kiev, headed by the Nazis' adherent Velychkivsky, and other dens of nationalist adventurers.

Nationalists of every stripe zealously worked as *burgomasters* and village headmen, *polizeis*

and *Gestapo* agents. People hated the nationalists just like any other traitors of the Motherland. In this regard, one of the nationalists wrote the following: "They call us fascists, spies and Hitler's accomplices... True, from human viewpoint, the Germans give us the dirtiest job."

Being opposed to the Soviet people, including the people of the Ukraine, Western historians do not tell about the real policy pursued by the invaders on the occupied territory, about the tribulations of the population, and the atrocities committed by the Nazis. Instead, laying it on thick, they describe scenes of welcoming the invaders by local residents — which they invented by themselves — and the "popularity" of the Nazis. However, suffice it to refer to the facts that are often cited in the same literature (published in the USA, Britain, FRG) to disproof these concoctions. For example, in his work, American researcher A. Dallin quotes A. Rosenberg, *Reichsministr* for the Occupied Eastern Regions, who said, in December 1941, that the Soviet population could be fully identified with the communist regime, therefore it must not be considered German's ally. (A. Dallin. *German Rule in Russia.* New York, 1957.)

Beginning of the people's struggle against the Nazis.

The population not only hated the invaders. Together with the Red Army it fought the enemy by using its own, partisan methods. The partisan struggle was initiated by the people itself as soon as the Nazis invaded the USSR. The efforts of the Soviet people in the struggle against the enemy on the occupied territory were coordinated by

This is what the "new order" brought to Soviet children.

the Communist Party and its Central Committee which in fact became the headquarters of this patriotic movement.

Along with the formation of underground organizations, there appeared partisan detachments and groups which were joined by factory and office workers and peasants who were able to act in the enemy rear areas. The effect of these actions the invaders felt already at the end of 1941. Nazi General Guderian had to admit that as the war assumed a protracted character with fighting at the frontline being even more stubborn, the partisan struggle became a regular scourge, affecting the morale of German soldiers.

Partisans of the Zhitomir area dealt appreciable blows at the enemy. As early as August 1941 the Nazis had to carry out a large punitive expedition there. In 1941-1942, the partisan struggle gained in scope in Kiev Region where nearly 20 detachments were active. The Cherkasy partisan detachment under the command of F. Savchenko attacked German unit trains and dispersed *polizeis*. The partisans maintained close contacts with local residents who obtained intelligence information, supplied them with foodstuffs and clothing. The Nazis were so frightened that in the villages of Cherkasy Region they began to post up notices promising 25,000 rubles for the capture of F. Savchenko, and 2,500 rubles for a partisan from his detachment.

The partisans of the Donbas and Dnipropetrovsk Region lent effective help to the troops of the South-Western and the Southern fronts which, in 1941-1942, delayed the enemy's

advance toward the Donbas. Bravely fighting the invaders were the partisan detachments that were based in the flood lands on the Dnieper in the vicinity of Nikopol (in all, over 700 men). They raided enemy garrison troops, disrupted communications, blew up bridges, prevented the shipment of manganese ore to Germany.

The period of December 1941 to the winter months of 1942 was marked with the unification of small partisan detachments into large units. They began, on a regular basis, to perform assignments of the Soviet military command. In May 1942, the Central and the Ukrainian Headquarters of Partisan Movement were set up so as to centralize the guidance of partisan actions.

In the fall of the same year, in the Ukraine, not a district was left without an underground resistance group or a partisan detachment. As these detachments and units grew in number, the range of their actions became wider and the forms and methods of their struggle were perfected. The partisan movement developed into a nationwide armed struggle against the Nazi invaders.

At the end of 1942, in the Ukraine, there were 5 large partisan units, 900 separate detachments and over 1,000 groups. New successes were scored by the units headed by S. Kovpak, O. Fedorov, O. Saburov, M. Naumov in Sumy and Chernihiv regions; the detachments commanded by O. Salov, O. Kamyshan and I. Kopionkin in the Kharkiv area; the detachments of Ya. Syvoronov and M. Karnaukhov in the Donbas; the detachments of A. Tsendrovsky and S. Malykov in the Zhitomir area; the detachment

of I. Kalashnyk in the Vinnitsya area, the detachment of A. Odukha in the Kamyanets-Podilsky area and the detachment of A. Brynsky that acted in the Volyn area. Every passing day saw new feats of valor accomplished by Ukrainian partisans.

The first phase of the war was the most complicated and at the same time the most important. For it was then that the fate of the Soviet Union and the future of the people were at stake. The people of the Ukraine, together with all USSR peoples, with their heroic struggle and dedicated labor, staved off the grave danger and created the necessary conditions for a fundamental change in the war, for a decisive counteroffensive at the front.

A Turning Point. 1943

Victory at Stalingrad and the beginning of the liberation of Ukrainian territory.

The day when the famous Stalingrad offensive operation for encircling and smashing a large grouping of Nazi troops — February 2, 1943,— was over, added a bright page to the history of WWII. At Stalingrad the 6th Field Army and a part of the 4th Armor Army, the 3rd and the 4th Romanian and the 8th Italian armies were routed. The total losses of Germans and their allies here reached nearly 1.5 million troops, some 2.000 tanks and assault guns, 9,000 artillery pieces and mortars; 91,000 men and officers were taken prisoner.

This victory of the Red Army signified a turning point in the war. In the course of the great Battle of Stalingrad the Nazi bloc's armies lost a quarter of those forces that acted at the time at the Soviet-German front. The Nazi troops' defeat at Stalingrad was the most important stage on the road to victory in the Great Patriotic War. However, Western falsifiers try in every way to distort the truth. Bourgeois historians spread their own "theories" of decisive battles of WWII so as to belittle the sig-

nificance of the armed struggle at the Soviet-German front and ascribe the decisive role in the defeat of Nazi Germany to Britain and the USA, not the Soviet Union. For example, American historian Baldwin maintains that the outcome of the last war depended on 11 battles, among them the Battle of Stalingrad (A. Baldwin *Battles Lost and Won: Great Campaigns of World War II.* New York, 1966). By comparing events which are incommensurate as for their scope and, what is more important, their results, such sorry historians try to ignore the fact that the Stalingrad epic was the major battle of WWII. However, although they are widely spread in the West, the "theories" of Baldwin and his like are not taken seriously even by bourgeois historians who have not lost the ability of viewing things in a sensible light. In his *History of WWII*, published in 1968 in London, British historian B. Pitt, aptly calling the Battle of Stalingrad the battle that saved mankind, wrote that it disemboweled the German Army and shattered the fragments of the myth about "German invincibility."

Soviet soldiers, including the sons of the Ukraine, displayed mass heroism at Stalingrad. Fifteen natives of the Ukraine were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for an active participation in the Battle of Stalingrad. This high title was conferred, in particular, upon Sergeant P. Bolot who, together with his three Russian mates, destroyed in one battle 15 of 30 enemy tanks; Major V. Shcherbina who personally annihilated 87 Nazis; Lieutenant I. Voitenko, commander of an anti-tank battery which put out of action 8 enemy tanks. Among

Fighters from the partisan formation, headed by M. Taranushchenko, after a combat operation (1943).

the heroic defenders of the Pavlov building — well-known in Stalingrad — there were Ukrainians: V. Hlushchenko, P. Dovzhenko, A. Ivashchenko, M. Chornoholov, H. Yakymenko.

Near the Kletska station on the Don, on August 18, 1942, Junior Lieutenant O. Pokalchuk from the Zhitomir area and Deputy Political Instructor P. Hutchenko from the Donbas were killed in action. At a critical moment, when an attack of Soviet soldiers got bogged down, they simultaneously threw themselves upon the firing port of an enemy weapon emplacement, covering it with their bodies. Inspired by that feat, the soldiers resumed the attack and made the enemy retreat. Posthu-

mously awarded the Orders of Lenin, O. Pokalchuk and P. Hutchenko were put for ever in the muster-roll of their military unit. In all, 6,000 Ukrainians (17 per cent of the awarded) were decorated for the Battle of Stalingrad.

The successful actions of Soviet troops on the Don and in the Northern Caucasus made it possible to start the liberation of the Ukraine from the invaders. On December 16, 1942, the troops of the Voronezh and the South-Western fronts launched an offensive. The last kilometers at the approaches to the Ukraine were very hard. Soviet soldiers had to move through snowdrifts and in icy cold, overcoming the stubborn resistance of the enemy.

The 573rd Regiment of the 195th Infantry Division of the 1st Guards Army, commanded by General V. Kuznetsov, was the first to reach, on December 18, 1942, the Ukrainian SSR. The first populated area in the Ukraine that was liberated that day, was the village of Pivnivka, Milove District, Voroshilovgrad Region.

In those battles, just as before, the invincible union of the Soviet fraternal peoples was revealed. Sons of all nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union fought for the freedom and happiness of the Ukrainian people just as for the freedom and happiness of their own peoples. The beginning of the liberation of the Ukraine rejoiced the hearts of soldiers of different nationalities. The company commander, Russian V. Bazhenov, called upon his comrades-in-arms to liberate the Ukraine as early as possible and rushed to the attack. V. Bazhenov and his deputy S. Dontsov were killed. Ukrainian H. Nah-

nybida assumed command of the company, but was mortally wounded. He was replaced by two privates — Russian I. Razgulaev and Byelorussian P. Krivoshlyk. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with them were Georgian V. Chiureli, Tatar N. Nasredinov, Armenian H. Karapetian, and soldiers of other nationalities.

On the border of the Ukrainian SSR and the Russian Federation in Milove, the monument "From the Ukraine to Her Liberators" was erected. It symbolizes the eternal friendship and fraternity between the Ukrainian people and the USSR peoples and the gratitude of Ukrainians for the liberation from the Nazi invaders. Next to the monument stand stone slabs bearing the names of those who fell in those battles — 1,066 Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Uzbeks, Kirghizs, Bashkirs, Maris.

In January, February and March 1943, Soviet troops performed offensive operations on the Upper Don, in the vicinity of Kharkiv and the Donbas. They cleared of the enemy a number of industrial centers and agricultural districts. Among the regional centers, Voroshilovgrad was the first to be liberated and then Kharkiv.

Soon, however, as a result of the Nazis' counterattack in the vicinity of Kharkiv, Soviet troops had to leave the city. But the further advance of the enemy was delayed. By the end of March, the frontline in the Belhorod-Kharkiv direction was stabilized.

At the time, on Ukrainian soil, near Kharkiv, fighting together with Soviet soldiers was the 1st Detached Czechoslovak Battalion, commanded by L. Svoboda, which was formed in the Kharkiv area.

Labor exploits of workers, peasants and the intelligentsia of the Ukraine in the interior of the USSR.

In 1943, thanks to the titanic effort of the working class, peasants and the intelligentsia, the fundamental change in Soviet industry that had started in 1942 was consolidated. The unprecedented enthusiasm of the working masses became the mighty force that helped the Soviet economy, under hard wartime conditions, find and bring into use large additional reserves. It was revealed especially vividly in the nationwide socialist emulation drive launched in May 1942 in all branches of the national economy: millions of working people in the interior of the country made efforts to save time while filling war orders, save fuel, raw materials, turn out products over and above the plan and contended for the titles of a Best Steelworker, Best Miner, Best Turner, etc.

A year after the beginning of the nationwide drive labor efficiency increased 40 to 50 per cent at major enterprises. Generally, participating in the drive was 80 per cent of industrial and office workers among whom there were quite a few workers evacuated from the Ukraine. Expressing their common opinion, one of the best workers from the Kryviy Rih area, O. Semyvolos, said: "Here in the distant Urals we, the workers from Kryviy Rih, are watching, with hope and excitement, the victories of the Red Army which is liberating, inch by inch, the native land... We should show our gratitude to the Red Army with our dedicated work." O. Semyvolos himself set a record of efficient work. The famous miner from Kryviy Rih, I. Zaver-

tailo, also was among the overachievers. The Ukrainian steelworker V. Amosov introduced a high-speed method of steelmaking at the Zlatoustye steel works. Throughout the war his team had produced 35,000 tons of steel.

Great successes were scored also by entire evacuated collectives. An illustration of this are employees of the Lenin Steel Works who arrived in Nizhni Tagil from Kryviy Rih. Using the same equipment as in 1941, the works produced in 1942 by 145 tons of iron more than in the prewar year (and in 1943 even by 1.5 times more).

In the hard years of the Great Patriotic War the people on the home front had to work under difficult conditions: 12 to 15 hours a day, without vacations and on scanty rations. However, Soviet industrial and office workers concentrated all their efforts on the main thing — to increase the production of munitions. Also important was that Ukrainian workers were warmly received in the fraternal republics. They were given every support on the part of Russians, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Bashkirs and other peoples who took close to heart the tribulations faced by the people of the Ukraine which was overrun by the Nazis.

The results of this fraternal attitude and cooperation made themselves felt in full measure. Thanks to this, agricultural cooperatives and machine and tractor stations, which were evacuated from the Ukrainian SSR, could work successfully in the country's interior. A number of them became examples of efficient management and advanced methods which were followed by local agricultural workers. For example,

when the Semen Budionny Collective Farm was based in Kazakhstan, a team of machine operators, headed by P. Anhelina, a well-known woman tractor driver from the Donbas, made a good showing. That team also included her sisters Olena, Kateryna and Nadia. Paraska Anhelina called upon the young Kazakh woman machine operators to care for the tractor, to learn to handle it better and operate it properly. Soon after nearly 200 teams of woman tractor drivers appeared in that republic (over 11,000 women).

A bright page in the history of Ukrainian art will always be the stay of theaters, film studios and museums from the Ukraine in the eastern parts of the USSR. People in the arts made every effort to satisfy the cultural needs of soldiers at the frontline. Suffice it to say that Ukrainian companies alone sent 108 groups of actors off to the frontline to perform before Soviet troops.

Ukrainian scientists who worked with the Academy of Sciences of the Republic, at higher educational establishments of the eastern republics also made a considerable contribution to the strengthening of the Red Army's combat power. Many thousands of Soviet soldiers were cured thanks to the efforts of Ukrainian doctors, headed by O. Bohomolets, R. Kavetsky, M. Strazhesko, and other notable scientists.

So, at a time when the Ukrainian SSR's territory was temporarily occupied by the Nazis, the Ukrainian people, represented by numerous qualified professionals, scientists and artists (who leaned on the economic facilities, scien-

tific and cultural establishments evacuated to the East) continued, on the lands of fraternal nations, to most actively participate in strengthening the might of the Soviet Union.

Battle of Kursk. Liberation of the Left-bank Ukraine and the Donbas from the Nazi invaders.

Trying to take revenge for the defeat at Stalingrad and win strategic initiative, in July 1943 the Nazis launched an attack — unprecedented as to its force — in the vicinity of Kursk. The Red Army, which had organized defenses in good time, repelled the attack and started a counterattack.

The Battle of Kursk (July 5 — August 23, 1943) became one of the major events of the Great Patriotic War and WWII. As a result of both the defense and the counterattack, Soviet troops routed nearly 30 enemy divisions, including 7 armor and motorized ones. The enemy lost over 500,000 men and officers, 1,500 tanks, 3,000 guns and 3,700 aircraft. After the Battle of Kursk, the Nazi Army was unable to advance any more, its backbone was broken for ever.

Despite the great military-political significance of this battle, it was hushed up in the West for a long time. Starting in the later half of the 1960s, though, the situation has somewhat changed. Western historians have written monographs about it, among them E. Ziemke (*From Stalingrad to Berlin: the German Defeat in the East.* Washington, 1968), G. Jukes (*The Defense of Moscow.* New York, 1970), M. Caidin (*The Tigers Are Burning.* New York, 1974). It is noteworthy that objective admissions in these books are drowned in an ocean of inventions and concoctions. For example, almost each of

these authors explains the victory of Soviet troops in this battle by their superiority in manpower. In reality the ratio of personnel was 1 to 1.4 which objectively did not create any appreciable advantage necessary for a large offensive operation. It was the mass heroism of Soviet soldiers at that front section that accounted for the Red Army's success.

Among the soldiers and officers of many nationalities who displayed courage and staunchness were also Ukrainians. For instance, on July 6, 1943, a striking example of self-sacrifice was shown by Sergeant V. Chernenko of the 203rd Infantry Regiment, commanded by Major V. Konovalenko. From his machine-gun, the sergeant annihilated several dozens of Germans, then appeared tanks. He tied a few grenades round himself and threw himself under one of the tanks destroying it. V. Chernenko was posthumously given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Similar feats were accomplished by Senior Sergeant I. Zinchenko and Private I. Vdovychenko. They were posthumously given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union as well.

In the struggle against the enemy, great courage was shown by Lieutenant I. Butenko, commander of a T-34 tank. He engaged eight Nazi tanks, destroyed one tank and rammed another one with his T-34. When Butenko's tank got damaged, he dismounted and killed four enemy soldiers with his submachine-gun. For this, the Ukrainian tankman was given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In the sky over Kursk, fighter pilot I. Kozhedub, a native of Sumy Region, downed his first enemy planes — nine of them. Then he was

given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and later he was awarded this high title twice. (In all, 30 Ukrainians became Heroes of the Soviet Union during the Battle of Kursk).

The outstanding victory at Kursk created conditions for a large-scale offensive of the Red Army along the entire southern wing of the Soviet-German front. Successfully acting in the Kharkiv direction were the troops of the Steppe Front. On August 22, they approached the city on three sides and began (on the 23rd of August) to storm it. As a result, Kharkiv was finally liberated. Overcoming the stubborn resistance of the Nazis the troops of the Central Front forced the Desna River and liberated Chernihiv on September 21, while the units of the Steppe Front drove the enemy out of Poltava on September 23.

In the second half of August 1943, fierce fighting raged in the Donbas. At 6 a.m., August 18, a hurricane of fire from 5,000 guns and mortars signaled the beginning of Soviet attack against the German grouping that had organized strong defenses on the Mius River. There was a stubborn fighting for the Saur Mound which opened way into the depth of the Donbas. The rapid advance of Soviet troops saved many towns, villages and industrial enterprises from destruction. However, following the directive of Himmler about devastating the Donbas, the invaders did cause great damage to this region.

Soviet troops gathered momentum and, on September 9, dislodged the enemy from the regional center of Stalino (now Donetsk) and, by the end of the month, had cleared the whole of the Donbas of the Nazi invaders.

Further intensification of the people's struggle in the Nazi's rear areas.

The historic victories of the Red Army at Stalingrad and Kursk greatly inspired Soviet patriots on the occupied territory to stepping up the anti-Nazi struggle. Under the guidance of the Central and the Ukrainian Headquarters of Partisan Movement, extensive organizational and political work and combat operations were carried out by underground anti-Nazi committees and organizations. Among them were such as the Lokhvytsya-Sencha committee in Poltava Region, the Balta and the Prybuzke committees gions of Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and in Mikolayiv, the Kiev-based organization "Death to German Occupiers!", the resistance organization "People's Guards" in western regions, "Young Guards" in Krasnodon, and many others.

The growth of the population's struggle against the German occupiers especially manifested itself in the Ukraine. In June 1943, the number of partisans here was 2.5 times, and in December 1943 almost 3.5 times the figure of the January of the same year. Acknowledging the fact of the intensification of partisan struggle in the Ukraine, the chiefs of the Nazi economic inspection reported to Berlin: "The time has come when the word 'bandits' with regard to partisans does not fit any more. **It would be appropriate to speak about a regular second front."**

One of the most effective forms of actions performed by Soviet partisans became acts of sabotage at enemy communication routes. Their actions were especially important in the course

of the battles at Stalingrad and at Kursk. In July 1943, acts of sabotage on the railroad in the enemy rear — the so called "railroad warfare" — assumed an unprecedented scale. Partisans mined railroad beds, destroyed rails and ties, blew up bridges. In 1943, they caused 3,666 large accidents on the railroad of the Ukraine, i.e. an average of 10 accidents a day. This meant that the German Army did not get many items of resupply — tanks and guns, ammunition and fuel.

An important form of the struggle against the invaders were also raids of large units and entire formations into the deep rear of the enemy. The famous "Carpathian Raid" of the partisan formation commanded by S. Kovpak (June-September 1943), went down in the history of the Great Patriotic War. During the whole period of its actions in the rear, the formation had covered over 10,000 km in 18 regions of Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and in Poland, annihilating thousands of Nazis and their accomplices, destroying 173 tanks and armored vehicles, 83 military trains, 25 guns, 41 oil derricks of the enemy, etc.

A sign of rapid growth of resistance struggle was also the appearance in the enemy rear of areas which were fully controlled by partisans (so called partisan areas and zones). They were mostly in the north of the Ukraine. The largest partisan zone, formed on the junction of three republics — the Russian Federation, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, had an area of 13,000 sq km, including 500 towns and villages with a population of 200,000.

To suppress the resistance movement, the

Nazi occupiers carried out large punitive operations, burning down villages in partisan zones and terrorizing the population. In 1943 alone, in the Ukraine, the Nazis kept a 424,000-strong force for this purpose. However, thanks to the courage and heroism of partisans and their support by the people, all actions of the invaders did not bring the desired effect.

The heroic struggle of the patriots was an example for the entire population. Workers, peasants and intellectuals became ever more active in the resistance movement. The mass sabotage of industrial and office workers was responsible for the Nazis' failure to set up, on captured territories, an industrial base to serve the needs of the *Wehrmacht*. By March 1943, in the Ukraine, the work of a mere 2.3 per cent of the enterprises was organized (partially, at that).

Representatives of several German firms set about organizing the production of projectiles at the "Zaporizhstal" Plant. However, through the sabotage of workers, the work that continued there for a whole year never went beyond a preparatory stage.

Opposing the landlordism introduced by the Nazis in the countryside, peasants spoiled implements, muddled up records, and failed to report for work. As a result, the grain crop hardly reached 25 per cent of the prewar time. Neither demagogic promises made by the Nazis nor threats, starvation, mass executions and arrests could break down the people's resistance.

Atrocities of the Nazis and their accomplices — Ukrainian nationalists.

The years of Nazi occupation left a terrible memory in the Ukraine. "Vast expanse must be conquered as soon as possible. This can be best achieved by way of executing each one who scowls his displeasure," thus the main butcher, Hitler, instructed his subordinates. Wherever the Nazis' jackboot stepped there appeared gallows and ditches filled with dead bodies. Everything living was subdued and terrorized and even the cruelty of the medieval Inquisition paled beside the Nazis' brutality. In the Ukrainian SSR, there are nearly 250 known places of mass execution of civilians. Hundreds of thousands of people, after going through sufferings, died in large death camps and ghettos whose number reached 60 in the Ukraine. In the vicinity of Lviv, the Yanivsky hard labor camp was set up especially for mass extermination of civilians. The SS men and Ukrainian nationalists who guarded the camp tortured to death over 200,000 people. The camp chief Gebauer would personally strangle women and children, and froze men in barrels. During the occupation, 100,000 Kievites were killed in Babyn Yar.

Soviet prisoners of war experienced great sufferings they were subjected to by the Nazis and their henchmen. Over 180 large PW camps were set up in the Ukraine. The enemy used different methods to cause heavy mortality among them: starvation, exposure, epidemics, tortures, and executions for the slightest fault. One of the inmates of the Volodymyr-Volynsky camp recalled: "People have eaten all the grass

in the camp, hay, bark and leaves from the trees... In the morning, during a snowstorm with 40 degrees of frost, half-clothed people were driven out of the barracks for 'morning exercises.' Even the sick were not spared... After such 'morning exercises' 50 to 60 people remained in the snow." Testifying to the scope of brutalities enacted by the Nazis are the following facts: an average of 4,400 civilians (throughout the occupation of the Ukraine a total of 3,898,000 people died) and 2,500 prisoners of war (throughout the occupation of the Ukraine 1,366,000 PWs died) were killed daily by the occupiers in the Ukraine.

The invaders, with the help of their accomplices from among local traitors, destroyed entire built-up areas and exterminated local residents. The whole world knows of the tragedy of the Czechoslovak village of Lidice razed to the ground by the Nazis. In the Ukraine, this happened to 250 villages.

The Ukrainian people sustained heavy losses also as a result of the fact that many people were forcibly sent to Germany for hard labor. In the Ukraine, just as in other territories overrun by the Nazis, the times of occupation obscured the dark days of the Tatar and Turkish onslaughts of the distant past. Day and night, the invaders hunted civilians. They sent to the Third Reich 2.4 million people whose exhaustion and death underlay the very system of their exploitation.

Great damage was caused to the Ukraine by the Nazis' economic policy which consisted in the open and unrestrained plundering of the people. German capitalists, merchants and

A group of Yugoslavian partisans from the Ukrainian partisan formation, commanded by S. Malykov (1943).

businessmen rushed here appropriating factories and whole industries, and mercilessly robbing the peasants. Beginning in the later half of 1943, when the Nazi invaders had to retreat from the Ukraine, the Nazi leadership set this goal: to turn this territory into a desert. *Reichsfuhrer* SS Himmler instructed: "After retreat from the Ukraine, it is necessary that not a single human, not a single head of cattle, not a single centner of grain, not a single rail be left; that not a single building be left intact and not a single mine undamaged for many years; that not a single well be left unpoisoned. The enemy should find a totally burnt and devastated land." Thus, the invaders set about

taking whatever could be loaded on trains and vehicles. Hundreds of thousands of tons of raw materials, foodstuffs, industrial equipment, cultural values were sent to Germany. Even rich furtile soil was taken out. Everything they could not take along was to be destroyed.

The rapid advance of Soviet troops prevented the Nazis from completely fulfilling their barbaric plans. Nevertheless, the Republic's national economy and its cultural values sustained considerable losses. The Nazis put 16,000 plants and factories out of action, destroyed and burnt out 714 cities and towns, and over 28,000 villages, thereby leaving nearly 10 million homeless. The invaders plundered and destroyed 27,700 collective farms, 1,227 machine and tractor stations, 873 state farms, 33,000 schools and technical colleges, 116 higher educational establishments, over 19,000 libraries, 62 theatrical buildings, over 600 movie houses, 151 museums, and 9,000 community centers. The Nazi marauders did not limit themselves to the property of cultural establishments, industrial equipment and agricultural produce. They also sent, for example, entire trainloads of Poltava black soil to Germany, as well as more than a million of fruit trees dug out of Ukrainian earth. The direct losses alone suffered by the economy of the Ukrainian SSR ran to 285 billion rubles. This amount exceeds the material losses of all the anti-Hitler coalition countries (except the Soviet Union). The Ukraine (just as the other Soviet republics that were temporarily occupied) had not suffered such casualties and losses throughout its history. Time will not obliterate the unheard-of

atrocities of the Nazis, nor will the future generations forget them.

The Ukrainian nationalists continued to zealously assist the occupiers in their crimes. In the years of the war, when the Ukrainian people did not yield to the Nazis and declared holy war on them, the nationalists showed their true face. They did not disdain to do anything to please their masters — Nazi invaders. They went out of their way to divert their fellow countrymen from the resistance struggle. This is an appeal to the population distributed by these lackeys in 1943: "The German Army has sustained heavy losses in this war. We Ukrainians must help it with our work... This will be the manifestation of genuine nationalism. So, to constructive work, to collaboration with Germans!"

Members of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) acted hand in glove with the Nazis to fight the partisans and the underground resistance movement. In 1943, for this purpose, they were included in the so-called 31st SD Punitive Detachment, formed by the occupation authorities, which acted under the name of the Ukrainian Legion of Self-defense. That same year, on the instructions of the occupiers, the OUN members activated the SS Division "Galizien" for fighting partisans and the Red Army. With the permission of Germans, they also formed the notorious Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), and a certain Borovets, an agent of Nazi intelligence, who named himself Otaman Taras Bulba, formed a large gang, *Poliska Sich.* In villages, leaders of the nationalist squads prepared secret stocking points for keep-

ing provisions and arms. Both the UPA and *Poliska Sich* maintained contacts with the *Wehrmacht,* carried out joint combat operations, received arms, radio stations, ammunition, etc. from the Nazis. According to a West-German bourgeois historian, E. Hesse, the essence of that collaboration "was the awareness that the defeat of the Germans will render the further political activities of the Ukrainian nationalist movement impossible."

The Nazis' accomplices — Ukrainian nationalists — received the blessing of the hierarchs of the Uniate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Churches to perpetrating the crimes against the people. For example, the Archbishop of the Autocephalous Church, Polikarp Sikorsky,— a zealous lackey of the occupiers — called upon his nationalist flock "to loyally collaborate" with the Nazis. He wrote in a special message: "Complete and active assistance to all the sections of German authorities is our daily duty."

The zealous service of the OUN and UPA to the Nazi invaders in the struggle against Soviet troops was highly appreciated by their German bosses. In April 1944, Chief of Security police and SD of the Galizien District, *Sturmbahnfuhrer* SS, Witiska, reported to Berlin: "Units of the Ukrainian gangs (UPA — **Auth.**) on several occasions fought together with the *Wehrmacht* against the Red Army... and, at sections, rendered the troops, at critical moments, services which cannot be underestimated... the cooperation of the *Wehrmacht* and the *Abwehr* with the UPA will be continued."

Zealous executors of the Nazi occupiers'

misanthropic actions against the Ukrainian people, nationalists, together with the Nazis, often burnt down "unsubmissive" villages, killing the residents. This happened, for example, to the small town of Lyubeshiv, the villages of Tonezh, Zheleznytsya, Kukhotska Volya in Volyn Region. Nationalists eagerly combined the discharging of the duties of OUN leaders with an active participation in the "auxiliary police" created by the Nazis. A career OUN functionary, S. Durbak, who headed the Voinyliv district branch of the OUN in Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankivsk) Region, at the same time was in charge of the local "Ukrainian police." On his conscience are 194 killed civilians and the fate of those 1,871 people who, with his assistance, were forcibly sent to Germany. He was also involved in the burning down of nearly 570 peasant huts. After the war, this butcher found shelter in Canada.

Similarly, some other Nazi accomplices went overseas for safety: *polizeis* S. Novozhenyuk, B. Koziy, O. Hutsalo, S. Oleksyuk, D. Marushchak from Ivano-Frankivsk Region; former chief and deputy chief of the auxiliary police of Lyuboml in Volyn Region, S. Kovalchuk and J. Prykazyuk; a senior *polizei* from Striy in Lviv Region, S. Gholod, and *polizei* from the village of Didyatychi in the Drohobych area, S. Senchyshyn...

The list of the OUNites — war criminals who settled in the USA, Canada, and other Western countries — could be continued to run into several thousand names. The Ukrainian people, as well as the peoples of the other Soviet republics occupied by the Nazis, had to live through hard

times. The Nazis, assisted by the Ukrainian nationalists, tortured, killed, robbed and marcilessly exploited the freedom-loving Soviet people, trying to bring them to their knees — but in vain. The Ukrainian people will never forget about those crimes. They will not forget that on the conscience of those butchers are at least two million innocent victims who died in the western Ukrainian regions alone at the hands of the Nazis and the Ukrainian nationalists.

Assault crossing of the Dnieper and liberation of Kiev.

After liberating the agricultural regions of the Left-bank Ukraine and the industrial Donbas, in the later half of September 1943, Soviet troops reached the Dnieper at a frontage of 750 km. Then the center of combat actions was shifted to the area of the Dnieper's middle stream. The Nazi propaganda told German soldiers that the Dnieper was a "defense line of their home." Along this water obstacle stretched the major part of the so-called "Eastern Wall" — a fortification system where the Nazi Command planned to hold strategic defense. "The Dnieper will sooner flow back than the Russians cross it," Hitler stated with self-assurance.

Beginning with the Battle of Kursk, many Soviet military units had not had respite and needed reinforcement. Supply units had lagged behind and pontoon units had not arrived yet. However, Soviet soldiers understood very well that the enemy must not be allowed to collect himself and consolidate on the river's right bank. Thousands upon thousands of warriors, without waiting for crossing means and using rafts, fishing boats and shelter halves stuffed

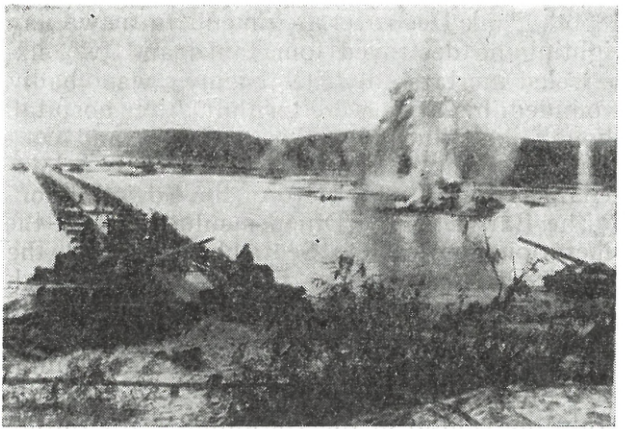
with straw, crossed the Dnieper, capturing, inch by inch, a bridgehead on its bank. With the arrival of the main force the German "Eastern Wall" collapsed.

The troops of the 13th Army were the first to cross (September 21) the water obstacle in the vicinity of Okuninove. At the same time the Dnieper was crossed by the 60th and 61st armies north of Kiev. On September 22, in the vicinity of Velykiy Bukryn, tankmen of the 3rd Guards Armor Army began crossing the river. On September 25, at the section of Dnipropetrovsk-Zaporizhya, the Dnieper was crossed by the 6th Army. On September 29, the crossing of the Dnieper was carried out by the 47th and 52nd armies in the vicinity of Kaniv, and by the 7th Guards Army south of Kremenchuk.

Thus, in extremely difficult conditions, under the continuous fire of the enemy's artillery and aircraft, Soviet troops crossed the great river of Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

During the crossing of the Dnieper, the inviolable unity of the USSR peoples had again been demonstrated. Warriors of many nationalities — Russians and Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Tatars, Georgians and Bashkirs, Kazakhs and Armenians — showed unprecedented valor, high combat skill and mass heroism in the Battle for the Dnieper.

Fighting bravely on the Dnieper bridgehead that had been captured from the enemy were soldiers of the 229th Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division, raised in Kazakhstan. Deputy battalion commanders of this regiment I. Rumyantsev and L. Sibagatulin, who had on many occasions engaged in hand-to-hand fighting,



Soviet troops crossing the Dnieper (Oct. 1943).

were badly wounded. Also wounded were officers B. Pyrin and M. Kazanov. However, they did not leave the battlefield. When enemy tanks rushed into the regiment's positions and Soviet soldiers ran out of ammunition, battalion commander P. Bayuk and his deputy A. Dusukhambetov threw themselves with grenades under the German tanks. The brave died but the enemy did not break through.

Great valor was displayed on the Dnieper banks by soldiers of Russian nationality. In those days the whole country learned about four young scouts — V. Ivanov, V. Sisolyatin, M. Petukhov and I. Semenov — who were the first to cross the Dnieper. They were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Here on the Dnieper a feat of arms was accomplished by Captain V. Petrov, deputy commander of the

1850th Tank Destroyer Regiment. In a two-day fighting he destroyed four tanks and two six-barreled mortars of the enemy, was badly wounded: his arms were torn off. After hospital, though, he returned to his regiment and continued fighting. At present V. Petrov is a lieutenant general, twice Hero of the Soviet Union.

The Battle for the Dnieper culminated in the liberation of Kiev. On September 29, 1943, the Soviet General Headquarters set the Voronezh (1st Ukrainian) Front a mission: to concentrate efforts on the Kiev direction and, cooperating with the Central (Byelorussian) Front, annihilate the enemy's grouping near Kiev and liberate the capital of the Ukrainian SSR. Initially main effort was planned south of Kiev, in the vicinity of Velykiy Bukryn. However, Soviet troops failed to penetrate the enemy defense from the Bukryn bridgehead. On October 25, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief issued a directive according to which the area of offensive was changed: the Lyutizh bridgehead became the main one and the troops were to bypass Kiev from the northwest. In later October — early November 1943, within a very short period (7 to 9 days), the complicated regrouping of troops from the left to the right wing of the front was performed.

On November 3, after a long artillery preparation and air strikes, Soviet troops launched an attack north of Kiev. The enemy was taken by surprise. On the night of November 6, fighting raged on the northern outskirts of Kiev and then in downtown. Breaking through enemy positions, two groups of scouts, commanded by Captain N. Andreyev and Lieutenant G. Sa-

morukov, raised red flags in the center of Kiev. The 207th Battalion of the 22nd Guards Armor Brigade, headed by Captain D. Chumachenko, was the first to fight its way to the central part of the Ukrainian capital. On Khreshchatik Street they were joined by riflemen of the 21st Infantry Regiment. Guiding them through the city was Sergeant Major N. Sholudenko, leader of a tank reconnaissance platoon. He was killed in action. The brave son of the Ukraine was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Men and officers of the 1st Detached Czechoslovak Brigade, led by Colonel L. Svoboda, fought together with Soviet troops on Kiev's streets. At 4 a.m. on November 6, 1943, the capital of the Ukraine was liberated.

Afterwards, the Red Army liberated Zhitomir and continued its advance westward. Fierce fighting was in progress in the south of the Republic as well. Within three months, troops of the 2nd and the 3rd Ukrainian fronts liquidated the enemy's Zaporizhya bridgehead. On October 14, 1943, they liberated Zaporizhya and on October 25, Dnipropetrovsk.

The year 1943 went down in the history of the Great Patriotic War as the year of a turning point in the war. Soviet troops broke through the blockade of Leningrad, completed the liberation of the western regions of the Russian Federation, entered the Byelorussian territory and cleared the left-bank regions of the Ukraine of the enemy. During the offensive 218 enemy divisions were defeated. For the Ukrainian people and the Soviet people generally, that year became the eve of the final victory over the Nazi invaders.

On the Road to Victory. 1941~1945

Liberation of the Right-bank Ukraine and the Crimea.

On December 24, 1943, Soviet troops mounted a general offensive on the Right-bank Ukraine which involved the 1st Byelorussian and the 1st-4th Ukrainian fronts. The offensive was conducted from the Polissya area to the Black Sea coast at a frontage of 1,400 km. On the morning of January 5, 1944, the troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front launched an attack and, on January 8, liberated Kirovograd. But the enemy succeeded in holding a large salient in the vicinity of Korsun-Shevchenkivsky where a strong grouping was on the defensive, threatening the flanks of the 1st and the 2nd Ukrainian fronts. On the order of the General HQ, on January 25-26, 1944, both fronts passed over to the offensive so as to encircle and annihilate that grouping.

Despite the Nazis' stubborn resistance, on January 28, Soviet troops encircled over 10 divisions — a total of nearly 80,000 Nazis having 1,600 guns and mortars, 270 tanks and assault guns. The Germans went out of their way to break through but failed.

On January 8, the Nazi command rejected the Soviet instrument of surrender and the Red

Army launched a decisive attack. In the village of Zhurzhyntsi, a tank crew of S. Abramtsev, who was from Siberia, destroyed a "Ferdinand" self-propelled gun, a tank, 10 vehicles, 5 APCs, and dozens of Germans. That fierce battle lasted a few hours. A projectile hit the Soviet tank and set it on fire. The crew died but did not give in to the enemy. S. Abramtsev was posthumously given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Sergeant V. Yastrebtsov, born in Ivanovo Region, covered the firing port of an enemy pillbox with his body. Liberating the Ukraine from the Nazis, four of his brothers also died the death of a hero. In the course of the battle the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union was bestowed upon 70 servicemen, among whom were 50 Russians.

On February 17, the German grouping ceased to exist. The Nazis lost 55,000 men and officers with 18,000 captured prisoner. Shutting eyes to the quite evident, Western falsifiers of the history of WWII try to belittle the Red Army's successes in the Battle of Korsun-Shevchenkivsky. They speak of the "skillful copying" of the experience of German generals, which were beaten by the Red Army, or capricious weather, or various technical problems (they refer, among other things, to the warm weather, the mud of Ukrainian roads, the wider tracks of Soviet tanks as compared with German tanks, the higher ground clearance of Soviet vehicles, etc.).

It is in place here to recall the myth, that is spread in the West, about the personal responsibility of Hitler for the *Wehrmacht's* defeat. These views which concern, in particular, the

Wehrmacht's failures also at the southern section of the Soviet-German front, i.e. on the Ukraine's territory, are exaggerated to such an extent that the figure of the Nazi dictator looks "demoniac," that is such which completely determined both the course and the results of combat actions. In this regard the views of British historian J. Strawson are quite typical (J. Strawson. *The Battle for Berlin.* London, 1974). He writes that the defeat of the *Wehrmacht* in the East was caused by Hitler's "unreasonable" interference in the operational and strategic control of combat actions. Similar allegations by Western authors about the extremely eccentric disposition of the fuhrer are supposed to substantiate their false theses to the effect that, ostensibly, to win a victory over the USSR, the Nazi generals should not have been "hindered" in the waging of the war.

No matter what these "theorists" invent, the Battle of Korsun-Shevchenkivsky — this "Stalingrad on the Dnieper" — went down in the history of the Great Patriotic War as a proof of the outstanding achievements of Soviet war art which leaned upon the unprecedented growth of the might of the Armed Forces.

Along with the success at Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front succeeded in carrying out the Lutsk-Rovno operation which resulted in liberating, on February 2, 1944, the cities of Lutsk and Rovno, and later, in March, Proskuriv (now Khmelnitsky), Chernivtsi, Ternopil and Vinnitsya. At the time, troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front were advancing in the Uman-Botoshany direction. After

crossing the Southern Buh and the Dniester, on March 25, 1944 (i.e. in the 1,009th day of the war), they reached the USSR's State border and shifted combat actions to the territory of Romania which was Nazi Germany's ally. The peoples of the USSR and of European countries received that news as a sign of the impending defeat of the Third Reich.

The troops of the 3rd and the 4th Ukrainian fronts advanced as rapidly. They routed enemy troops in the vicinity of Kryviy Rih — Nikopol and Bereznehuvate — Snihurivka; on March 13, they liberated Kherson, on March 28 — Mikolayiv, and on April 10 recovered the city of Odessa. With Soviet troops' reaching Odessa and the Dniester estuary, favorable conditions were created for defeating the enemy's Crimean grouping and recovering the Crimean Peninsula. This was assigned to the 4th Ukrainian Front and the Detached Maritime Army in conjunction with the Black Sea Fleet.

The Crimea was defended by the Nazis' 17th Army (almost 200,000 strong) which had a large quantity of fighting equipment. On April 8, after a long artillery preparation and air strikes, Soviet troops launched an attack and captured Simferopol on April 13. On May 5, they began to storm the fortifications of Sevastopol. The fierce battle for the Nazis' stronghold — Sapun Mount — lasted 9 hours. On May 9, 1944, Soviet soldiers crossed the Northern Bay and liberated Sevastopol. A few days later, the Crimea was completely cleared of the enemy. As successfully as in the South, the Red Army completed the spring campaign at the other sections of the Soviet-German front.

Combat actions of partisan units.

The final phase of the great battle for the liberation of the Ukraine from the Nazi invaders was characterized by the further growth of partisan struggle in the enemy rear. Although the size of the occupied territory of the Ukrainian SSR had already sharply decreased, the anti-Nazi movement continued to mount. The underground organizations had acquired great significance and increased the scope of their activities.

At the beginning of 1944, over 350 resistance organizations were active in the Vinnitsya, Zhitomir, former Kamyanets-Podilsky, Kirovograd, Rovno, Odessa, Lviv, former Drohobych, Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankivsk), Ternopil and Chernivtsi regions. It was an armed partisan struggle that assumed the biggest scope. In the aforesaid regions there were 31 partisan formations and 81 independently acting detachments, numbering 48,000 partisans. In time this figure considerably increased.

A specific feature of the anti-Nazi movement of the time was its close cooperation with the Red Army.

The following example can give an idea of the importance of such a cooperation. During the Lutsk-Rovno operation, the partisan formations under the command of S. Malykov, V. Behma, A. Hrabchak, M. Naumov, O. Fedorov, I. Fedorov and others, which controlled a large zone in the northern part of the Rovno and Volyn areas, enabled the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front to advance for 100 km within a short time and reach the Horyn River. Partisans actively helped Soviet soldiers in liberating Rov-

no, Lutsk, Tsuman, Kamin-Kashyrsky, and a number of other cities (in all, 47 populated areas).

Most detrimental to the Nazis were raids carried out by partisans into enemy rear areas. In January 1944, the Lviv-Warsaw raid of the 1st Ukrainian Partisan Division (under the command of P. Vershyhora) began. During that raid, the partisans covered almost 3,500 km — an area with 7 rivers, 30 surfaced roads and 16 railroads. They fought 139 battles, derailed 24 enemy trains. Over the 45 days of the raid the cavalry formation, headed by M. Naumov, passed through 35 temporarily occupied districts of the western regions of the Ukrainian SSR.

In 1944, the Ukrainian SSR stepped up its assistance to the partisans of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary. They were assisted in combat training and provided with logistic support. In particular, at the request of the leadership of the Resistance Movement of those countries, the Ukrainian Partisan Movement HQ sent a number of its formations and detachments to the territory of Poland and Czechoslovakia, and special detachments and groups to Romania and Hungary.

The liberation struggle of the working people of the Ukraine was closely interwoven with the interests and goals of the working people in other countries, first and foremost those which were under the jackboot of Nazi invaders. All this accounts for the fact that many foreign anti-fascists joined the ranks of Soviet underground fighters and partisans. At the beginning of 1944, nearly 5,000 Poles, over 800 Czechs and Slovaks, 330 Hungarians,

227 Yugoslavs, as well as Germans, Frenchmen, Bulgarians, Romanians and other people of goodwill from 20 countries fought in the territory of the Ukraine for its liberation. The Ukrainian people highly appreciate their contribution to the struggle against the brown plague — Nazism.

The effectiveness of the partisan struggle considerably increased in the final stage of the liberation of the Ukraine from the Nazi invaders. This had to be admitted even by Western historians, the overwhelming majority of which tends to misrepresent the history of the partisan struggle in the USSR. The aforesaid E. Hesse (FRG) noted that "despite the increasing cruelty and ruthlessness of suppressive methods" the partisan movement "developed into a partisan front."

Beginning of the rehabilitation of economy in the Ukrainian SSR.

Any capitalist country, even though large and industrialized, having sustained such enormous losses, would have been delayed in its advance for decades. Not so the Soviet Union. The advantages of its socialist economy created conditions for starting restoration efforts already in the course of the war. They began as soon as a city or a village were cleared of the enemy. The builder immediately took the place of the warrior. What is more, the Soviet people gradually switched from the urgent rehabilitation of the most vital projects in the initial stage of liberation to the large-scale restoration of plants and factories on the basis of technical reconstruction.

Attaching great importance to the rehabilita-

Soviet soldiers in the battle for Lviv (July 1944).

tion of the Ukrainian economy, the USSR Government allocated the Republic over 18 billion rubles, thousands of machine tools, vehicles, various equipment and sent hundreds of thousands of skilled workers to the Ukraine. Personnel of industrial enterprises cleared the premises of rubble, twisted girders and repaired parts of machinery. Many people mastered the job of a construction worker; tools, which were not always available, people brought from home, made by themselves or found among debris.

Great enthusiasm, inventiveness and persistence made it possible to overcome difficulties, constantly faced by builders, and fulfill a considerable volume of work within a short time. During restoration in the Donbas, 650 million

cubic meters of water — which had formed an underground pond with a total area of 70 square kilometers and 10 m deep — were pumped out from the mines; more than 2,500 km of rock burst were removed, i.e. at a depth of 200 to 700 m tunnels were driven and supported whose total length equaled the distance from Moscow to Paris; thousands of industrial enterprises and housing for one million people were restored. Day and night, overcoming fatigue and privations, the working people accomplished truly heroic deeds. By the end of the war, 30 per cent of the prewar industrial capacities had been put into operation in the Republic.

Farmers, who understood that the army in the field and the working class needed foodstuffs, worked as hard as urban dwellers. In 1945, all the collective farms, state farms and machine and tractor stations had been restored. As regards agricultural machinery, though, they had half of the prewar stock. Farmers sowed 76 per cent of the prewar sown areas and somewhat restored stock-breeding; in 1943-45 they gathered and sold to the State 825 million poods of grain.

With the putting of industrial enterprises into operation great attention was given to increasing productive capacities and output. The nationwide socialist labor emulation drive continued to grow. The drive of youth teams assumed an even larger scope at that time. In 1944, the number of those teams was 15,200. The motto of the drive was: "Work at your plant just as soldiers fight at the front." Those teams which fulfilled their targets by 150-200 per cent were called "frontline" teams.

Hundreds of thousands of workers tried to do as well as the foremost workers — innovators — who had made a good showing in the prewar time and during their stay in the country's interior: O. Kedya, M. Afonin, S. Ruban, H. Pankratenko, N. Yehorova, and many others. The role of women in labor-consuming areas of production had especially increased in the closing phase of the war. For example, young women from Horlivka called on women to master the job of a miner. One of such women was M. Hryshutina. Her father — a miner from Horlivka — presented her with his knapping hammer and said: "Go and learn to work. There are still good workers in our family." Soon after Hryshutina headed a team of No. 19-20 Mine of "Artemvuhillya" and set a regional record among women, fulfilling her shift quota by 1,145 per cent. In all, in the Donbas, the jobs of miners were mastered by over 1,000 women, 600 of them were given an honorary title "Foremost Miner."

What was produced in 1943-45 made up a small part of a prewar showing and was far from meeting the needs of the economy and the population. However, capacities, as well as the output of products were constantly increasing.

The renewal and expansion of the work of scientific, educational and cultural establishments, organizations of creative workers, the radio and the press featured prominently in the rehabilitation program. Despite the war, the Soviet Government took important measures for the reorganization and perfection of schools providing general education. Everything was done to revive the school education system in

the cities and villages of the Ukraine. At the end of 1945, there were functioning 30,500 schools with a total enrollment of 5,100,000 and 154 higher educational establishments attended by 138,000 students. In March 1944, the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences returned to Kiev. It played a most important role in the restoration of economy. For example, with the assistance of the Electric Welding Institute of the Academy of Sciences, headed by the notable scientist Ye. Paton (now the Institute bears his name), 52 large industrial enterprises widely employed electric welding.

Works of great ideological and artistic value by famous Ukrainian authors P. Tychyna, M. Rylsky, M. Bazhan, V. Sosyura, Yu. Yanovsky, composers M. Verikivsky, Yu. Meitus, K. Dankevich; artists M. Derehus, O. Shovkunenko, K. Trokhymenko, M. Hlushchenko and others were of great importance for inspiring the Ukrainian people to the complete defeat of the enemy and the rehabilitation of economy. 103 theaters resumed their work on the liberated territory.

In those hard years, the traditional cooperation of the USSR peoples, who helped the Ukraine a lot, again manifested itself. Trainloads of equipment, raw materials and food arrived in the Republic from different corners of the country. The inscription "Urgently to the Ukraine" was painted on many freight cars. Considerable assistance was rendered during the rehabilitation of the coal-mining Donbas and the ore-producing Kriviy Rih area, the reconstruction of Kiev and Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa and Kharkiv. People of 25 nationalities worked

at the restoration of the V. Lenin Dnieper Hydroelectric Station and 120 enterprises from 53 Soviet cities sent equipment there. Thanks to the achievements in economic restoration the Ukraine could become, in the closing stage of the war, a material and technological base used for the war effort.

Completion of the liberation of the territory of the Soviet Ukraine.

On July 13-14, the Red Army started summer offensive in the Rava-Ruska and Lviv directions, aiming to defeat the German Army's groups, "Northern Ukraine." Launching attacks from the North and from the South, Soviet troops encircled and routed, in the vicinity of Brody, 8 German divisions, annihilating 38,000 men and officers and taking 17,000 prisoners. On July 27, 1944, they recovered Lviv and Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankivsk). By the end of August almost all the western Ukrainian territory had been liberated. At the beginning of October 1944, in the course of the Carpatho-Uzhgorod operation, the Nazi invaders were driven out of the Ukrainian SSR within its prewar frontiers. As a result of the operation, on October 27 the enemy was dislodged from Uzhgorod and on October 28 the rest of the towns and villages of Transcarpathia were liberated.

The great battle for the liberation of the Soviet Ukraine lasted almost two years. It involved nearly half of the manpower and fighgting equipment of the army in the field. The recovery of the Ukraine from the Nazis was the triumph of the comradeship-in-arms of the USSR fraternal nations. That great battle pro-

duced 3,755 Heroes of the Soviet Union — men and officers: 2,598 Russians, 668 Ukrainians, 72 Tatars, 68 Byelorussians, 39 Kazakhs, 33 Uzbeks, 35 Armenians, 31 Mordvinians, 31 Georgians, 24 Bashkirs, 17 Chuvashes, and other warriors from many parts of the USSR. Participating in battles on Ukrainian soil were 83 out of 114 twice Heroes of the Soviet Union — representatives of many nationalities of the USSR. In all, warriors of 120 nationalities distinguished themselves here.

The Ukrainian people, who would have been unable to drive off the enemy by themselves, will always be grateful to the fraternal peoples for the selfless assistance which had a decisive significance for the future of the Ukraine. The people of the Republic will always remember the feats of arms of the liberators — the Soviet Union's sons and daughters who fought the Nazis on Ukrainian soil and gave their lives for the happiness of the Ukraine. This sacred feeling of gratitude to the gallant warriors who died in the war liberating the Ukrainian people is reflected in 27,000 monuments and memorials, erected in the postwar period in the Ukrainian SSR, notably the memorial complex "Ukrainian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945" in Kiev.

Patriotic movement of the working people to assist the Red Army.

During the liberation of the Ukraine the nationwide patriotic movement, aimed at enhancing the Red Army's combat power, assumed a large scale. Residents of cities and villages actively helped the Red Army by restoring and clearing railway tracks,

roads, and by constructing bridges, river crossings, airfields, ranges and depots. By the beginning of 1944, chiefly with the help of 30,000 volunteers from among local residents, 9,203 km of trunk lines and 2,750 km of station tracks (144,000 ties and nearly 100 km of rails replaced) had been restored at the North Donbas, South-Western, Southern and Stalino (now Donetsk) railroads. The average rate of restoration efforts was 11 to 12 km a day while the target was 8 km. Over 2,000 urban and rural dwellers were decorated for their contribution to this construction which was carried on together with engineer troops. During battles for the liberation of the Republic's right bank and western regions, whole villages came out to clear roads of snowdrifts. In this manner, over 10,000 km of frontline roads were cleared.

The vivid manifestation of patriotism was a massive drive for establishing the national defense fund, i.e. material, monetary and food resources which belonged to individual citizens of the USSR and were donated by them to strengthen the Red Army's fighting efficiency. Entire tank columns and air squadrons were built with individual donations of money and valuables. Expressing the common view of hundreds of thousands of patriots, P. Dykan from Kharkiv said: "Every little helps... to make a rope for Hitler. Let's donate more to make that rope thicker and stronger so as to hang Hitler the butcher as early as possible."

"For the Soviet Ukraine," "Liberated Poltava Region," "Sumy Farmer," "Ternopil Peasant,"

"Soviet Zhitomir Region" — these are but a few names of tank and air columns built over the last war years alone with the personal savings of people of the Ukraine. Soviet soldiers tried to act up to the expectations of those who supplied them with these weapons. Residents of the village of Novoplanivka, Krasnoarmiysky District, Stalino Region (now Donetsk Region) in the Donbas bought a T-34 tank and handed it over to their fellow villagers drafted into the Army: brothers K. Zolotko and M. Zolotko, and D. Boiko. This tank, named "Donbas Avenger," was used against the Nazis on the territory of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia. Its crew destroyed seven enemy tanks, nine APC's, and dozens Nazis. In all, the population of the liberated Ukraine donated 859 million rubles and many valuables to the defense fund.

People also volunteered on a broad basis to collect scrap to be used by munitions factories. In 1944, nearly 150,000 tons were collected in the left-bank regions alone. The foodstuffs that peasants gave to the State over and above the plan were also of help to the Red Army. In 1944, for example, the Ukrainian SSR sent 530,000 tons of grain and many other products to the defense fund. Residents of the Republic mended and laundered 7.4 million clothing for servicemen. This was done by 352,000 women.

The Ukrainian people also took care of frontline soldiers' families, children whose parents were killed, the wounded, and war invalids. The working people of the Ukraine did all they could to strengthen the unity of frontline effort

with that of the home front which was instrumental in achieving success in the war.

Movement of progressive Ukrainian emigration in support of the USSR.

During the Second World War progressive public abroad launched a massive movement in support of the Soviet Union's struggle against Nazism. Contacts were expanded with hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians whose fate had brought them overseas. The progressive organizations of Ukrainians in the USA, Canada and Latin America exposed Nazism, explained to broad sections of society in their countries of residence the just liberation goals and the world historic significance of the Soviet people's war against the Nazi invaders.

The broad-based anti-Nazi movement of solidarity of foreign progressive Ukrainians with the Soviet Union facilitated the formation of new and the expansion of existing democratic organizations, and helped pool the efforts of Slavic population within entire countries. The political and moral support of the Soviet people, who were heroically struggling with Nazism, was reflected in numerous meetings of progressive circles of emigration, in collection of funds, in letters to the USSR, newspaper materials, etc.

The message of greetings sent by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians to the Government of the Ukrainian SSR on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Soviet power in the Ukraine, read, "Our struggle, dear brothers and sisters, is the struggle not only for your freedom but for the freedom and independence

of all world nations... We struggle and work for Canada, but we remember our first homeland."

The Ukrainian Society to Aid the Homeland, the Ukrainian-American League, the Canadian Society to Aid Russia, the "Victory" Club, and other organizations were active in the USA and Canada. A number of progressive organizations appeared in the labor emigration communities of South and Central America. They often were formed as a result of the unification of Russian-Ukrainian-Byelorussian communities. Functioning in Argentina were societies named after T. Shevchenko, M. Lysenko, I. Kotlyarevsky; in Brazil — the "Chervona Zorya" Russian-Ukrainian-Byelorussian society; in Uruguay — the "Ukrainian Cultural Center," the Ukrainian-Byelorussian Women's Committee to Aid the USSR, General Aid Committee named after K. Voroshilov; in Paraguay — the "Slav" Society with seven branches in the provinces; in Cuba — the 'Ukrainian-Byelorussian Cultural Committee of Havana, etc.

While engaging in anti-Nazi activities in emigration communities, the foreign progressive organizations of Ukrainians set up libraries, schools, drama groups, arranged showings of Soviet movies and photo exhibitions about the USSR, published their newspapers, books and pamphlets. Struggling against Nazi agents, including Ukrainian nationalists, and exposing their anti-Soviet actions, the progressive organizations needed unbiased and trustworthy information and received it through the Ukrainian Association for Cultural Relations with

Foreign Countries, which maintained contacts with 200 foreign organizations and individuals in nearly 20 countries. Friends of the USSR showed great interest in Soviet books, movies, newspapers, and radio programs. All this inspired them to the struggle against the common enemy — Nazism.

Campaigns for raising money and collecting clothing and medicines for the Soviet people became an important feature in the activities of the Ukrainian emigration organizations. In Canada, the United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Cuba, and in some other countries, committees to aid the USSR were set up. They included workers, farmers, intellectuals — all those who identified with the just struggle of the Soviet people. To raise money, various organizational forms were used — rallies, meetings, concerts, fairs, and even family holidays.

The mass campaign of patriotic circles assumed an especially large scope in Canada where numerous aid committees united into the Ukrainian Society to Aid the Homeland. In November 1941 — January 1942, that Society started a medical aid to the USSR fund. Over 132,000 dollars were collected to be used for equipping military hospitals. During the war progressive Ukrainian Canadians collected more than half a million dollars for rendering assistance to the Soviet people.

Nearly 100,000 dollars for military and civil hospitals of Kharkiv, Poltava, Lviv and for children's homes were raised by the Committee to Aid the Soviet Ukraine in the USA.

Progressive Ukrainian organizations in Argentina established a center for assisting the

USSR — the Ukrainian Democratic Committee to Aid the Soviet Union — and sent, already by the end of 1941, three shiploads of 20,000 pesos' worth of goods to the Soviet Union. In 1942, the Ukrainian Democratic Committee to Aid the Soviet Union, together with other organizations — the Stalingrad Defense Fund and the Central Commission to Aid the Soviet Union, collected nearly 250,000 pesos; 10,000 pesos and various supplies were sent to the USSR by the Ukrainian-Byelorussian Women's Committee to Aid the USSR and the General Aid Committee named after K. Voroshilov in Uruguay.

Campaigns for raising money for the USSR were of a mass character. The Soviet people remember that in the difficult period of WWII the working people of foreign countries, the whole of the progressive public, displayed sincere friendly feelings and contributed to the victory over Nazism.

Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

As a result of the Red Army's offensive operations in 1944, the Nazi invaders were driven out of the Soviet territory. The Armed Forces of the USSR started a great liberation mission in Europe. In March, Soviet troops entered Romania, and in the summer and the fall — Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Norway. During the campaign in the summer and fall of 1944 the Red Army considerably helped the liberation struggle of European peoples. Romania, Bulgaria, larger part of Poland and Hungary, the eastern regions of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were cleared of the Nazis.

The Red Army's signal victories created favorable conditions for the British and U.S. Allies' invasion of Normandy, in the North-West of France. In the mid September of 1944. the Allies crossed Germany's border and started combat actions on her territory. Tens of thousands of soldiers and officers of Ukrainian parentage were with the U.S. and Canadian troops fighting the Nazis.

The operations of British-U.S. troops in the West-European and Mediterranian theaters were a considerable contribution to the common cause of the anti-Hitler coalition, but the Red Army continued to face the main and most battleworthy forces of the *Wehrmacht* even after the opening of the second front. Fighting against Soviet troops were 239 German divisions, while against the Allies — only 81. The losses in manpower sustained by the *Wehrmacht* at the Soviet-German front were four times the figure of the West European and Mediterranean theaters taken together. At the Soviet-German front the Nazis suffered 75 per cent of all the losses in tanks, planes and artillery pieces. Therefore, the claims of certain modern Western historians that, allegedly, the Soviet Armed Forces had no decisive role in the vanquishing of Nazi Germany simply do not hold water. These authors should recall more often an utterance by one of the leaders of the anti-Hitler coalition, British PM, W. Churchill, to the effect that it was the Red Army that disemboweled the German war machine.

On January 12, 1945, Soviet troops started an all-out attack. It was the famous Vistula-

Farmers of the village of Mizyakinsky Khutory, Vinnitsya Region, donating money to the defense fund.

Oder operation whose purpose was to complete the liberation of Poland and reach the approaches to Berlin. This operation was timed to coincide with two more — the Eastern-Prussian and Western-Carpathian operations. In the mid-April of 1945, the Soviet Armed Forces launched the Berlin operation. Ten days later the enemy's seemingly impregnable defenses were penetrated. On April 30, the Banner of Victory was raised over the *Reichstag*. On May 8, 1945, the signing of the act of unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany made an end of the war in Europe. May 9 was declared a national holiday — V Day.

Three months later, honoring its commitments taken at the Crimean conference, the USSR declared war on Japan. By quickly de-

feating the strong Kwantung Army, Soviet troops precipitated the capitulation of that militarist power. On September 2, 1945, the act of unconditional surrender of Japan brought the war in the Far East to an end. The Second World War and the Great Patriotic War were over. Long-awaited peace had come.

Men and officers of Ukrainian nationality, along with other warriors — representatives of the fraternal USSR peoples, made a considerable conrtibution to the realization of the Red Army's great liberation mission. During fighting in Poland, near the town of Kolo, the feat of Alexander Matrosov — who covered a firing port with his body — was repeated by O. Nosulya, a sergeant of the 226th Infantry Division and a native of the village of Olexiyivka in the Donbas. He was posthumously given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and included forever in the personnel roll of the unit in which he served. Lieutenant Colonel Ya. Zadorozhny, commander of the 35th Armor Brigade, displayed exceptional valor in the battle for the Polish towns of Czrykow and Schitigliz. He was mortally wounded. While liberating Budapest a feat of valor was accomplished by Senior Sergeant I. Reva: he threw himself with an antitank mine under an enemy tank and, at the cost of his life, frustrated the enemy's attack.

Many sons and daughters of the Ukraine distinguished themselves in the battle for Berlin. The renowned Soviet ace I. Kozhedub downed there his 62nd enemy plane and was decorated the third "Gold Star" medal of Hero of the Soviet Union. In a street fighting, a brave

woman, nurse L. Kravets, assumed command of the company after the commander's death and the soldiers successfully completed the attack. She was given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for this feat. This high title was awarded for the second time to Major S. Artemenko, a native of Odessa Region, and Colonel Z. Slyusarenko from Kharkiv Region.

In all, during the storm of Berlin the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred upon 589 servicemen of 23 nationalities, including 108 Ukrainians. From the beginning of the war to its end, the Ukraine's sons and daughters did their soldier's duty, demonstrating a great love for the Soviet Motherland and the desire to fight to the last for its freedom and independence.

Ukrainian people's contribution to victory.

The Soviet people won an epoch-making victory in the four-year fierce struggle against armed-to-teeth German Nazism. They manifested an inflexible staunchness and by right achieved the fame of a heroic, victor country.

The war was both a terrible ordeal and, at the same time, the school of courage for the Ukrainian people who, in the wartime, sent 4.5 million sons and daughters to the Soviet Armed Forces. For example, the village of Borivka, Vinnitsya Region, produced 2,200 soldiers, 387 officers, and three generals. 1,500 of them were decorated for services in battle. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred upon residents of the village, L. Vytkovsky, O. Moroz, and V. Pyvovar and D. Kulbachov (both posthumously). Many of the villagers

Restoration of the M. Shchors Movie House in Chernihiv (July 1944).

were killed in action. The village of Prohnoi (now Heroisk) in Kherson Region also produced four Heroes of the Soviet Union: a sailor of the Black Sea Fleet, K. Vysovyn (awarded posthumously), Captain 1st Rank H. Ovodovsky, Captain 1st Rank M. Tansky, and Petty Officer P. Dubynda. Fighting in the war were entire families of patriots — seven Chubyn brothers from Kherson, five Havrykov brothers from Kadiyivka, five Komarovsky brothers from Odessa. These are but a few examples.

There are many Ukrainians among those holding the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The whole of the country knows thrice Hero of the Soviet Union Ivan Kozhedub, a native of Sumy Region. 32 of 114 twice Heroes of the Soviet Union are either Ukrainians or those born in the Ukraine. Incidentally, two of twice Heroes of the Soviet Union, Ukrainians S. Suprun and O. Molodchy, together with their Russian comrade-in-arms B. Safonov, were the first to receive the second "Gold Star" medal in battles against the Nazi occupiers.

Out of three Heroes of the Soviet Union who simultaneously are bearers of the "Glory" Order of three classes, two are Ukrainians, I. Drachenko, from Cherkasy Region, and the aforesaid P. Dubynda. 2,069 Ukrainians (of the country's total 11,603 — representatives of 60 nationalities) were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for courage and valor displayed in the war. Among them are 200 people from Poltava Region, 157 from Kiev Region, over 200 from Kharkiv Region, 108 from Zaporizhya Region, 127 from Voroshilovgrad Re-

gion, 138 from Dnipropetrovsk Region, 135 from Vinnitsya Region, and so on.

Servicemen — residents of the Ukraine — are bearers of 2.5 million orders and medals of the total 7 million decorations given to warriors of 130 nationalities of the USSR.

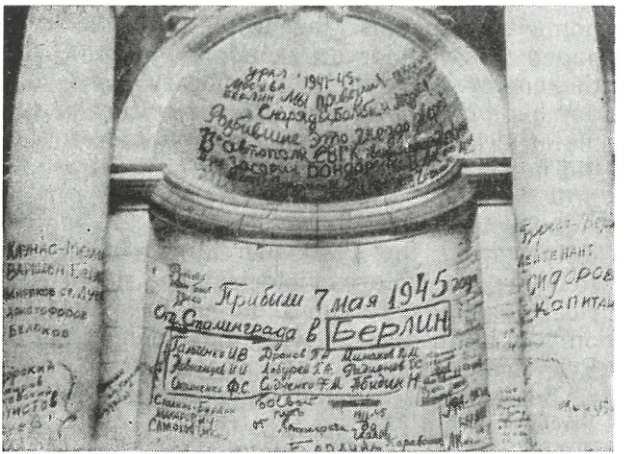
Vivid pages were also added to the history of the Great Patriotic War by warriors of Ukrainian nationality who, together with men and officers of other nationalities, demonstrated signal examples of heroism which grew into self-sacrifice for the freedom and independece of the Motherland. The famous feat of Captain N. Gastello, from Byelorussia, who steered his burning plane into an enemy tank column, was repeated by 388 heroes of 11 nationalities, among them were 52 Ukrainians or those born in the Ukraine. Among the pilots of 7 nationalities who performed 319 rams were 55 Ukrainians or those born in the Ukraine. 190 soldiers of 16 nationalities covered, at the decisive moment, firing ports of enemy weapons emplacements with their bodies, among them being 25 Ukrainians or those born in the Ukraine. The Ukrainian people gave hundreds of famous military leaders and generals to the Soviet Armed Forces.

Becoming a component part of the USSR Armed Forces, partisans and underground fighters — supported by millions of Ukrainian residents — created the front in the enemy's rear. Acting in the Nazi-occupied territory of the Ukrainian SSR was an entire army of armed patriots — over 60 partisan formations, nearly 2,000 detachments and groups, numbering 500,000 fighters. More than 100,000 people par-

ticipated in the numerous underground organizations. People of over 60 nationalities were in the ranks of partisans and underground fighters in the Ukraine — Ukrainians made up 59 per cent, Russians — 21.2 per cent, Byelorussians — 6.6 per cent, and the rest were representatives of other nationalities.

The effectiveness of their actions is borne out by the fact that during the occupation period they killed and wounded hundreds of thousands of German men and officers, as well as many henchmen of the occupiers, destroyed 467 garrisons, commandant's offices, HQ's *polizei* posts, derailed nearly 5,000 trains with enemy troops and equipment, put 1,566 tanks and armored vehicles, 211 planes and many other equipment out of action, captured many equipment, demolished 461 munitions factories, 915 depots, 248 communication centers, 44 railroad junctions, blew up 607 railroad bridges, damaged nearly 2,000 km of communication lines, etc. Partisans liberated 139 regional centers, towns and railroad stations in the Ukraine.

The Soviet Government highly evaluated the feats of arms accomplished by Ukrainian partisans. They received almost 63,000 decorations (out of 152,000 awards given to partisans throughout the country), 96 partisans and underground fighters (out of 179 in the USSR) were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Two of them — O. Fedorov and S. Kovpak — became twice Heroes of the Soviet Union. Many Soviet people, who fought the Nazis in the European Resistance Movement, received decorations of honor from the Polish, Czechoslo-



The Reichstag (Berlin). May 1945.

vak, Romanian, Hungarian, Italian, French, and other governments. Supported by the unsubdued Ukrainian people, partisans and underground fighters helped the Red Army fight the enemy and contributed to the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany.

The history of mankind does not know of such a mass labor heroism which was displayed by the Soviet people, including the Ukrainian people, in the last war. Using the objective laws of development of socialist economy, the Soviet State could sustain tremendous economic difficulties, which were caused by the war, and find the necessary material and labor resources for their overcoming.

The inexhaustible force of the socialist eco-

nomic system plus the people's heroic work paved the way for an economic victory over the enemy. Despite the temporary loss of a number of vital industrial, agricultural, raw-material and fuel regions, the national economy did not fall into decay. On the contrary, it proved to be viable and could supply the country with everything necessary for successfully waging the war, thereby ensuring the Red Army's historic victories. The noted American journalist Edgar Snow wrote in 1944 that only a blind person could now deny that the Red Army's triumph had become the triumph of Soviet socialism, Soviet planning and the Soviet system.

The powerful war economy was created by the efforts of all the peoples of the Soviet Union. Along with all its republics and regions, the Ukrainian SSR made its economic contribution to the war effort.

* * *

The last war has reaffirmed the undeniable fact that the only guarantee of the free existence and prosperity of the Ukrainian SSR and other constituent parts of the country is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is within the fraternal family of the USSR peoples that the Ukrainian people have achieved social and national revival, turned their land into a flourishing industrial and agricultural republic, withstood the mortal combat with Nazism, completed the reunification of Ukrainian lands. Within a short period, they raised the Republic from

the ruins and scored new successes in the economic and cultural fields.

Over the years that have passed since the Great Patriotic War the working people of the Soviet Ukraine have made a great progress in the construction of a developed socialist society. Today, the Ukraine is a republic which has an impressive economic, scientific and technical, as well as spiritual potential. It is marching along the road of world progress, striving for friendship and cooperation with all the nations for the sake of a happy future.

The Ukrainian SSR's international prestige has notably grown in the postwar decades. The Soviet Ukraine, which along with the other Soviet republics had borne the brunt of the struggle against the Nazis, participated in the foundation of the United Nations Organization in the final stage of WWII, and now it is one of the UN's most active members.

The vanquishing of Nazism had a tremendous impact on the entire course of the world-historical process. There appeared, for the first time in history, an objective possibility for averting a new world war. This possibility was conditioned by the principal features and regularities of modern epoch. It was directly connected with the radical changes in the alignment of forces in the world in favor of real socialism and democracy, and with the growth of the popular masses' role in solving historical problems.

The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist commonwealth are in the vanguard of forces coming out for averting a new world

war. The Soviet Union began this struggle immediately after the end of WWII. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government were and are aware that the struggle for reducing the war danger, for excluding it from the life of society and for curbing the arms race is of special importance. The preservation of world peace, political and military detente, reduction of armaments and military spending create favorable conditions for all peoples to defend their independence and to move along the road of social progress.

The years that have passed since the end of WWII have testified to the invariability of the key line of socialist countries with regard to the issues of peace and war, to the growth of their efforts for strengthening peace and incapacitating the aggressive forces. The imperialist powers, headed by the USA, are pursuing quite a different policy. They want to reverse the course of history and, by any means — including military force — to hinder the development of socialism and the national-liberation movement, to suppress the revolutionary struggle of peoples. This tendency underlies the very nature of imperialism. Besides, the aggressive character of the foreign policy of imperialist powers is closely connected with the intensification of militarization which has assumed an unprecedented scale. The further modernization of the armed forces of imperialist powers, the strengthening and growth of military blocs, and the elaboration of plans of both local and world wars facilitate imperialists' preparations for new military conflicts.

Under these circumstances the world na-

tions' struggle for peace has acquired special significance. Along with the USSR peoples and other world nations, the people of the Ukraine — a constituent part of the USSR — are consistently working for peace. Now that the international situation has considerably deteriorated the struggle for peace is vital.

In this situation the Soviet State is doing everything possible so as to preserve and strengthen peace, to save mankind from the threat of nuclear war and to promote mutually advantageous international cooperation. The Soviet Union always abides by the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. At the same time, the USSR resolutely counteracts the reckless actions of imperialists and their attempts to upset the obtained military balance in the world.

"The Soviet Union as a great socialist power fully realizes its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace. We are open to peaceful, mutually beneficial cooperation with the states in all continents. We are for peaceful settlement of all disputable international problems through serious, equal and constructive talks. The USSR will cooperate in full measure with all states which are prepared to assist through practical deeds in lessening international tensions and creating an atmosphere of trust in the world," said Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU that took place on February 13, 1984. This firm peaceloving policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is utterly supported

by the Soviet people and meets with approval from all the people of goodwill.

The historical lessons of the last war, which allow to better understand the present and foresee the future, impell all peaceloving nations to be vigilant and active in the struggle for averting war and for mobilizing all the efforts for the sake of world peace.

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Mikhailo Koval

THEY HAVE WITHSTOOD AND WON

Translated by *Volodymyr Alexashyn*
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The front page of the cover: A fragment of the sculptural composition of the memorial complex "Ukrainian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945" in the Hero City of Kiev.

The second page of the cover: October Revolution Square in the Ukrainian capital.

The third page of the cover: The sculpture which represents the legendary founders of Kiev — brothers Kiy, Shchek, Khoriv, and their sister Lybid, was put up in the city on the occasion of its 1,500th anniversary.

The back page of the cover: In Kiev's "Glory" Park stands an obelisk at the foot of which, on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the eternal fire is burning.

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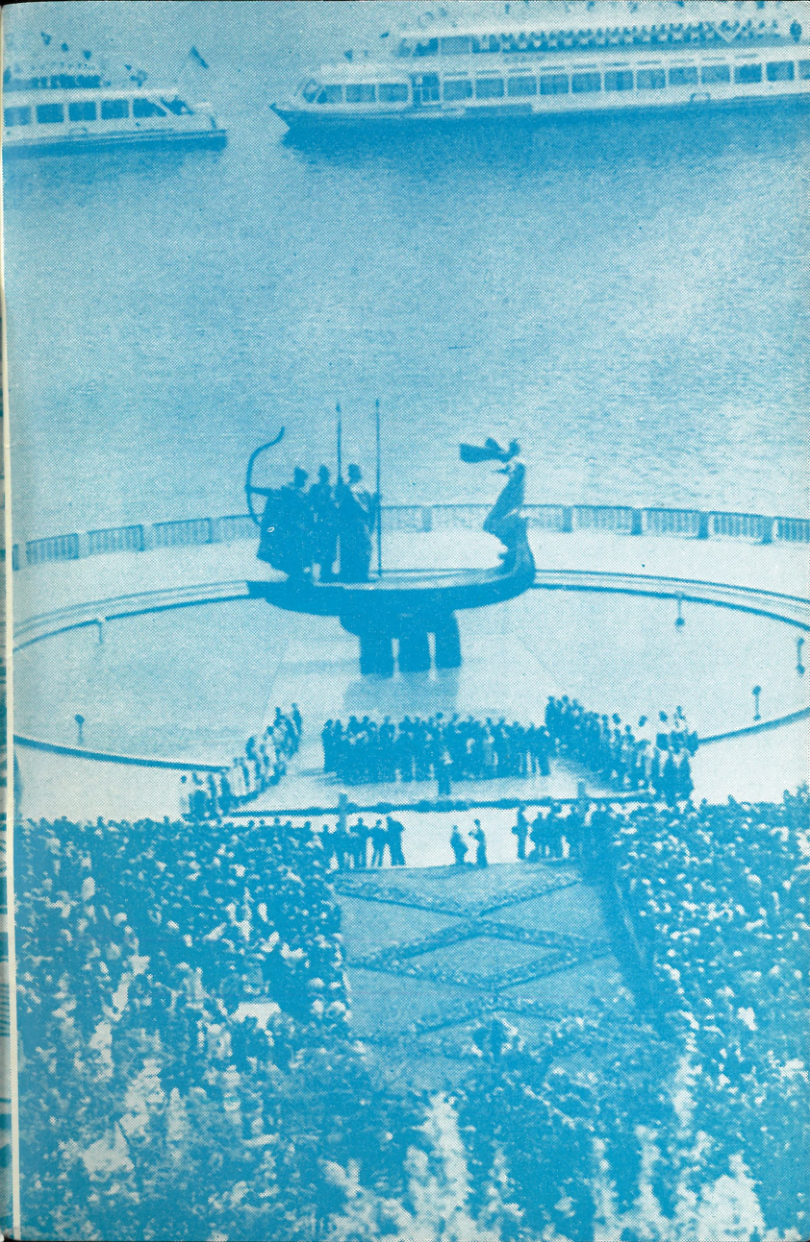
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